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SENATE FILE 2406
BY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 2347)

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 2200)

Passed Senate, Date 3/4/98 ^(p.570) Passed House, Date 3/30/98 ^{Formerly 2342 SSB 2199 (P.1064)}
Vote: Ayes 50 Nays 0 Vote: Ayes 97 Nays 1
Approved May 20, 1998

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a school ready children grant program to be
2 administered by community empowerment area boards and the Iowa
3 empowerment board, making an appropriation, and providing an
4 effective date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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S.F. 2406

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 71.1 DEFINITIONS.

2 For the purposes of this chapter:

3 1. "Community empowerment area" means a geographic area
4 designated in accordance with this chapter.

5 2. "Community empowerment area board" or "community board"
6 means the board for a community empowerment area created in
7 accordance with this chapter.

8 3. "Iowa empowerment board" means the board or other body
9 designated in law by the general assembly to oversee the
10 formation of community empowerment areas and to administer the
11 school ready children grant program.

12 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 71.2 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREAS.

13 1. The purpose of a community empowerment area is to
14 enable local citizens to collaboratively manage funds on
15 behalf of the children, families, and other citizens residing
16 in the area.

17 2. A community empowerment area shall be formed by using
18 existing school district and county boundaries to the extent
19 possible. Each county and school district in the state shall
20 have the option of participating in a community empowerment
21 area.

22 3. The formation of a community empowerment area and a
23 community empowerment area board is subject to the approval of
24 the Iowa empowerment board. The Iowa empowerment board shall
25 adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A providing for the initial
26 identification of community empowerment areas and procedures
27 for later changing the initially identified areas.

28 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 71.3 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREA
29 BOARDS CREATED.

30 1. A community empowerment area shall be governed by a
31 community empowerment area board. The composition of a
32 community board shall be two-thirds members who are citizens,
33 elected officials, or volunteers and one-third members who are
34 employees of or are paid for representing any of the entities
35 listed in this subsection. The members of a community

1 empowerment area board shall include one or more
2 representatives of any of the following:

- 3 a. A school district.
- 4 b. A county.
- 5 c. A local board of health.
- 6 d. A hospital.
- 7 e. A charitable funding group.
- 8 f. The department of human services.
- 9 g. A religious institution.
- 10 h. An area education agency.
- 11 i. Juvenile court services.
- 12 j. An area substance abuse agency.
- 13 k. A community action program.
- 14 l. A city.
- 15 m. A business organization.
- 16 n. A labor organization.
- 17 o. A service club.
- 18 p. A business.
- 19 q. Consumers.

20 2. A community board may designate representatives of
21 service providers or public agency staff to provide technical
22 assistance to the community board.

23 3. A community board may designate a professional advisory
24 council consisting of persons employed by or otherwise paid to
25 represent an entity listed in subsection 1 or other provider
26 of service.

27 4. The community board shall elect a chairperson and any
28 other officers deemed necessary by the community board from
29 among the members who are citizens, elected officials, or
30 volunteers.

31 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 71.4 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREA
32 BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY.

33 1. A community empowerment area board shall do the
34 following:

- 35 a. Designate a public agency of this state, as defined in

1 section 28E.2, to be the fiscal agent for grant moneys and for
2 other moneys administered by the community board.

3 b. Administer community empowerment block grant moneys
4 available to the community board. Eligibility for these block
5 grant moneys shall be limited to those community boards which
6 have developed an approved school ready children grant plan in
7 accordance with this chapter. Community empowerment block
8 grant moneys may include but are not limited to moneys
9 relating to any of the following:

- 10 (1) Child day care services.
- 11 (2) At-risk programs for preschool children.
- 12 (3) Head start programs.
- 13 (4) Parent education programs.
- 14 (5) Children's health programs.
- 15 (6) The family investment program, including the PROMISE
16 JOBS program.
- 17 (7) Substance abuse assessment and referral.
- 18 (8) Department of human services' field and program staff
19 supervision and oversight.
- 20 (9) Child welfare services, which may include group foster
21 care, rehabilitative treatment services, juvenile court
22 services, and other community-based juvenile justice services.
- 23 (10) Other moneys authorized in law for block grant
24 funding.

25 c. Assume other responsibilities established in law or
26 administrative rule.

27 2. A community board may do any of the following:

28 a. Designate one or more committees for oversight of grant
29 moneys awarded to the community empowerment area.

30 b. Function as a coordinating body for services directed
31 to similar populations by the jurisdictions within the
32 community empowerment area.

33 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. VI.E SCHOOL READY CHILDREN GRANT
34 PROGRAM -- ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.

35 1. The departments of education, human services, and

1 public health shall jointly develop and promote a school ready
2 children grant program which shall provide for all of the
3 following components:

4 a. Identify the core indicators of performance that will
5 be used to assess the effectiveness of the school ready
6 children grants, including increasing the basic skill levels
7 of students entering school, increasing health status of
8 children, reducing the incidence of child abuse and neglect,
9 increasing the access of children to an adult mentor,
10 increasing parental involvement with their children, and
11 increasing the quality and accessibility of child day care.

12 b. Identify guidelines and a process to be used for
13 determining the readiness of a community empowerment area for
14 administering school ready children grants.

15 c. Provide for technical assistance concerning funding
16 sources, program design, and other pertinent areas.

17 2. The program developed and components identified under
18 subsection 1 are subject to approval by the Iowa empowerment
19 board. The Iowa empowerment board shall provide maximum
20 flexibility to grantees for the use of the grant moneys
21 included in a school ready children grant.

22 3. A school ready children grant shall, at a minimum, be
23 used to provide the following:

24 a. Preschool services provided on a voluntary basis to
25 children deemed at risk of not succeeding in elementary school
26 as determined by the community board and specified in the
27 grant plan developed in accordance with this section.

28 b. Parent education programs promoted to parents of
29 children from birth through five years of age. Parent
30 education programs shall be offered in a flexible manner to
31 accommodate the varying schedules, meeting place requirements,
32 and other needs of working families.

33 c. A comprehensive school ready children grant plan
34 developed by a community board for providing children's
35 services for children from birth through five years of age

1 including but not limited to child development, child care,
2 children's health and safety, assessment provisions to
3 identify chemically exposed infants and children, and parent
4 education services. At a minimum, the plan shall do all of
5 the following:

6 (1) Describe community needs for children from birth
7 through five years of age as identified through ongoing
8 assessments.

9 (2) Describe the current and desired levels of community
10 coordination of services for children from birth through five
11 years of age.

12 (3) Identify all federal, state, local, and private
13 funding sources available in the community empowerment area
14 that will be used to provide services to children from birth
15 through five years of age.

16 (4) Describe how the funding source will be used
17 collaboratively and the degree to which the moneys can be
18 combined to provide the necessary services.

19 (5) Identify the results the community board expects to
20 achieve through implementation of the school ready children
21 grant program, and identify community-specific quantifiable
22 performance indicators that can be measured and reported in
23 the annual report.

24 5. An annual report on the effectiveness of the grant
25 program in addressing school readiness and children's health
26 and safety needs shall be submitted by the community board to
27 the Iowa empowerment board and to the local governing bodies.
28 The annual report shall indicate the effectiveness of the
29 community board in achieving state and locally determined
30 goals.

31 6. A school ready children grant to a community board
32 shall be awarded for a five-year period, with annual payments
33 made to the community board on or before October 1 of each
34 fiscal year. However, receipt of continued funding is subject
35 to submission of the required annual report.

1 The Iowa empowerment board shall distribute school ready
2 children grant moneys to community boards with approved
3 comprehensive school ready children grant plans in accordance
4 with the following formula:

5 a. A funding percentage shall be identified for each
6 school district in the state. The funding percentage shall be
7 the school district's proportion of the children who are
8 enrolled in the school district first through sixth grade
9 qualifying for free or reduced price meals for the school year
10 preceding the fiscal year in which the moneys are to be paid
11 compared to all children in the state who are enrolled in
12 first through sixth grade qualifying for free or reduced price
13 meals for the same school year.

14 b. A community empowerment area funding percentage shall
15 be determined by adding the funding percentages for each
16 school district in the community empowerment area.

17 c. The maximum annual grant amount for a community
18 empowerment area is the area's funding percentage of the
19 amount appropriated for school ready children grants for a
20 fiscal year.

21 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 71.6 IOWA EMPOWERMENT FUND.

22 1. An Iowa empowerment fund is created in the state
23 treasury under the authority of the Iowa empowerment board.
24 The moneys in the Iowa empowerment fund are not subject to
25 section 8.33 and shall not be transferred, used, obligated,
26 appropriated, or otherwise encumbered except as provided by
27 law. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or
28 earnings on moneys deposited in the Iowa empowerment fund
29 shall be credited to the fund.

30 2. A school ready children grants account is created in
31 the Iowa empowerment fund and moneys credited to the account
32 shall be distributed in the form of grants to community
33 empowerment areas as provided in law.

34 Sec. 7. SCHOOL READY CHILDREN GRANTS. There is
35 appropriated from the general fund of the state to the Iowa

1 empowerment fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1998,
2 and ending June 30, 1999, the following amount, or so much
3 thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purpose
4 designated:

5 For deposit to the credit of the school ready children
6 grants account:
7 \$ 5,200,000

8 Sec. 8. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. The general
9 assembly recognizes the significant findings of brain research
10 indicating that early stimulation of the brain increases the
11 learning ability of a child. In order for children to be
12 ready for school by age five, it is the intent of the general
13 assembly that implementation of the provisions of this Act
14 will accomplish the following:

15 1. Foster collaboration among state agencies which shall
16 initially include the departments of human services,
17 education, and public health, and allow the blending of these
18 agencies' funding and other resources.

19 2. Establish community empowerment areas with broad
20 community representation with the goal of providing
21 collaborative services to children from birth through age five
22 for the purpose of improving the quality of these children's
23 lives.

24 Sec. 9. IOWA EMPOWERMENT BOARD. The Iowa empowerment
25 board shall adopt rules, arrange for technical assistance,
26 provide guidance and take other actions needed to assist the
27 formation of community empowerment areas and community
28 empowerment boards and to enable the community empowerment
29 area boards to submit school ready grant plans in a timely
30 manner for the initial grants to be awarded and grant moneys
31 to be paid by October 1, 1998, in accordance with this Act.

32 Sec. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of
33 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

34 EXPLANATION

35 This bill establishes a school ready children grant program

1 to be administered by community empowerment area boards and
2 the Iowa empowerment board.

3 New Code section 7I.1 includes definitions of community
4 empowerment area, community empowerment area board, and Iowa
5 empowerment board.

6 New Code section 7I.2 provides requirements for designating
7 community empowerment areas.

8 New Code section 7I.3 provides requirements for counties
9 and school districts to designate community empowerment area
10 boards.

11 New Code section 7I.4 outlines the responsibilities and
12 authority of a community empowerment area board.

13 New Code section 7I.5 creates the school ready children
14 grant program.

15 The departments of education, human services, and public
16 health must jointly determine the core indicators of
17 performance that will be used to assess the effectiveness of
18 the grants, and establish guidelines and a process to be used
19 in selecting community empowerment areas for grants. The bill
20 directs the Iowa empowerment board to adopt rules to
21 administer the program.

22 The bill requires grantees to develop a plan and submit an
23 annual report, and the bill lists the programs and services a
24 grantee must provide.

25 A grant may be awarded for a five-year period contingent
26 upon a community empowerment area board submitting an annual
27 report. A funding formula is provided for determining the
28 distribution of grant moneys to community empowerment areas
29 for each fiscal year.

30 New Code section 7I.6 creates an Iowa empowerment fund.
31 Moneys deposited into the fund are not subject to reversion,
32 transfer, or appropriation except as provided by law.
33 Interest or earnings on moneys in the fund are to be credited
34 to the fund. A school ready children grants account is
35 created in the fund to be used for distribution of grants to

1 community empowerment areas. A general fund appropriation is
2 made to the account.

3 The bill includes legislative findings and intent. The
4 Iowa empowerment board is directed to adopt rules and take
5 other actions necessary to assist the formation of community
6 empowerment areas and community boards and in submission of
7 plans in a timely manner in order for grants to be issued by
8 October 1, 1998.

9 The bill takes effect upon enactment.

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SENATE FILE 2406

S-5143

1 Amend Senate File 2406 as follows:

2 1. Page 2, by inserting after line 19 the
3 following:

4 "r. Others as determined by the community board."

5 2. Page 7, by inserting after line 31 the
6 following:

7 "Sec. ____ . INITIAL COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREAS AND
8 BOARDS.

9 1. The chairperson of each county board of
10 supervisors shall convene the persons listed in this
11 section to meet for purposes of designating a
12 community empowerment area or areas and creating a
13 community empowerment board or boards. The
14 chairpersons of the boards of supervisors in
15 contiguous counties may elect to hold a joint meeting
16 for a multicounty area. The persons shall be convened
17 as soon after the effective date of this Act as is
18 practical. All of the following shall be invited to
19 the meeting for each county:

20 a. The chairperson of the county board of
21 supervisors of the county or a county supervisor
22 designated by the chairperson.

23 b. Not more than two school board members
24 designated by the school boards of the school district
25 or districts in the county.

26 c. Not more than two mayors designated by the city
27 councils of the cities in the county.

28 d. The administrator of the department of human
29 services' local office in the county.

30 e. The administrator of public health service in
31 the county.

32 2. The county office of the Iowa cooperative
33 extension service in agriculture and home economics
34 shall provide a training session for the meeting. The
35 training session shall be held within 45 days of the
36 effective date of this Act. The persons invited to
37 the meeting may designate an initial community
38 empowerment area or areas and identify the initial
39 community empowerment board for a designated community
40 empowerment area. Subsequent to designation of the
41 initial board, the ongoing membership shall be
42 determined by the board itself in accordance with
43 applicable law and any requirements adopted by the
44 Iowa empowerment board.

45 3. A community empowerment area designated and
46 board identified in accordance with this section shall
47 be designated and created on or before July 1, 1998,
48 or within 45 days of the effective date of this Act,
49 whichever is later. A community empowerment area
50 designated or board created after July 1, 1998, or

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Page 2

1 within 45 days of the effective date of this Act,
2 whichever is later, shall be designated or created in
3 accordance with the requirements developed for these
4 purposes by the Iowa empowerment board."

5 3. By renumbering as necessary.

By NANCY BOETTGER
JOHNIE HAMMOND

MAGGIE TINSMAN
JEFF ANGELO

S-5143 FILED MARCH 4, 1998

ADOPTED

(p.570)

3/6/98 Education
H-3/17/98 Amend/Do Pass
w/ H 8455

SENATE FILE 2406
BY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 2347)
(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 2200)

(AS AMENDED AND PASSED BY THE SENATE MARCH 4, 1998)

~~_____~~ - New Language by the Senate
Passed Senate, Date ^(P.1248) 4/14/98 Passed House, Date ^(P.1064) 3/30/98
Vote: Ayes 48 Nays 0 Vote: Ayes 97 Nays 1
Approved May 20, 1998
^(P.1657) Passed 4/15/98
Vote 98-1

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a school ready children grant program to be
2 administered by community empowerment area boards and the Iowa
3 empowerment board, making an appropriation, and providing an
4 effective date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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S.F. 2406

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 7I.1 DEFINITIONS.

2 For the purposes of this chapter:

3 1. "Community empowerment area" means a geographic area
4 designated in accordance with this chapter.

5 2. "Community empowerment area board" or "community board"
6 means the board for a community empowerment area created in
7 accordance with this chapter.

8 3. "Iowa empowerment board" means the board or other body
9 designated in law by the general assembly to oversee the
10 formation of community empowerment areas and to administer the
11 school ready children grant program.

12 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 7I.2 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREAS.

13 1. The purpose of a community empowerment area is to
14 enable local citizens to collaboratively manage funds on
15 behalf of the children, families, and other citizens residing
16 in the area.

17 2. A community empowerment area shall be formed by using
18 existing school district and county boundaries to the extent
19 possible. Each county and school district in the state shall
20 have the option of participating in a community empowerment
21 area.

22 3. The formation of a community empowerment area and a
23 community empowerment area board is subject to the approval of
24 the Iowa empowerment board. The Iowa empowerment board shall
25 adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A providing for the initial
26 identification of community empowerment areas and procedures
27 for later changing the initially identified areas.

28 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 7I.3 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREA
29 BOARDS CREATED.

30 1. A community empowerment area shall be governed by a
31 community empowerment area board. The composition of a
32 community board shall be two-thirds members who are citizens,
33 elected officials, or volunteers and one-third members who are
34 employees of or are paid for representing any of the entities
35 listed in this subsection. The members of a community

1 empowerment area board shall include one or more
2 representatives of any of the following:

- 3 a. A school district.
- 4 b. A county.
- 5 c. A local board of health.
- 6 d. A hospital.
- 7 e. A charitable funding group.
- 8 f. The department of human services.
- 9 g. A religious institution.
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- 20 r. Others as determined by the community board.

21 2. A community board may designate representatives of
22 service providers or public agency staff to provide technical
23 assistance to the community board.

24 3. A community board may designate a professional advisory
25 council consisting of persons employed by or otherwise paid to
26 represent an entity listed in subsection 1 or other provider
27 of service.

28 4. The community board shall elect a chairperson and any
29 other officers deemed necessary by the community board from
30 among the members who are citizens, elected officials, or
31 volunteers.

32 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 71.4 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREA
33 BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY.

34 1. A community empowerment area board shall do the
35 following:

1 a. Designate a public agency of this state, as defined in
2 section 28E.2, to be the fiscal agent for grant moneys and for
3 other moneys administered by the community board.

4 b. Administer community empowerment block grant moneys
5 available to the community board. Eligibility for these block
6 grant moneys shall be limited to those community boards which
7 have developed an approved school ready children grant plan in
8 accordance with this chapter. Community empowerment block
9 grant moneys may include but are not limited to moneys
10 relating to any of the following:

11 (1) Child day care services.

12 (2) At-risk programs for preschool children.

13 (3) Head start programs.

14 (4) Parent education programs.

15 (5) Children's health programs.

16 (6) The family investment program, including the PROMISE
17 JOBS program.

18 (7) Substance abuse assessment and referral.

19 (8) Department of human services' field and program staff
20 supervision and oversight.

21 (9) Child welfare services, which may include group foster
22 care, rehabilitative treatment services, juvenile court
23 services, and other community-based juvenile justice services.

24 (10) Other moneys authorized in law for block grant
25 funding.

26 c. Assume other responsibilities established in law or
27 administrative rule.

28 2. A community board may do any of the following:

29 a. Designate one or more committees for oversight of grant
30 moneys awarded to the community empowerment area.

31 b. Function as a coordinating body for services directed
32 to similar populations by the jurisdictions within the
33 community empowerment area.

34 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 71.5 SCHOOL READY CHILDREN GRANT
35 PROGRAM -- ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.

1 1. The departments of education, human services, and
2 public health shall jointly develop and promote a school ready
3 children grant program which shall provide for all of the
4 following components:

5 a. Identify the core indicators of performance that will
6 be used to assess the effectiveness of the school ready
7 children grants, including increasing the basic skill levels
8 of students entering school, increasing health status of
9 children, reducing the incidence of child abuse and neglect,
10 increasing the access of children to an adult mentor,
11 increasing parental involvement with their children, and
12 increasing the quality and accessibility of child day care.

13 b. Identify guidelines and a process to be used for
14 determining the readiness of a community empowerment area for
15 administering school ready children grants.

16 c. Provide for technical assistance concerning funding
17 sources, program design, and other pertinent areas.

18 2. The program developed and components identified under
19 subsection 1 are subject to approval by the Iowa empowerment
20 board. The Iowa empowerment board shall provide maximum
21 flexibility to grantees for the use of the grant moneys
22 included in a school ready children grant.

23 3. A school ready children grant shall, at a minimum, be
24 used to provide the following:

25 a. Preschool services provided on a voluntary basis to
26 children deemed at risk of not succeeding in elementary school
27 as determined by the community board and specified in the
28 grant plan developed in accordance with this section.

29 b. Parent education programs promoted to parents of
30 children from birth through five years of age. Parent
31 education programs shall be offered in a flexible manner to
32 accommodate the varying schedules, meeting place requirements,
33 and other needs of working families.

34 c. A comprehensive school ready children grant plan
35 developed by a community board for providing children's

1 services for children from birth through five years of age
2 including but not limited to child development, child care,
3 children's health and safety, assessment provisions to
4 identify chemically exposed infants and children, and parent
5 education services. At a minimum, the plan shall do all of
6 the following:

7 (1) Describe community needs for children from birth
8 through five years of age as identified through ongoing
9 assessments.

10 (2) Describe the current and desired levels of community
11 coordination of services for children from birth through five
12 years of age.

13 (3) Identify all federal, state, local, and private
14 funding sources available in the community empowerment area
15 that will be used to provide services to children from birth
16 through five years of age.

17 (4) Describe how the funding source will be used
18 collaboratively and the degree to which the moneys can be
19 combined to provide the necessary services.

20 (5) Identify the results the community board expects to
21 achieve through implementation of the school ready children
22 grant program, and identify community-specific quantifiable
23 performance indicators that can be measured and reported in
24 the annual report.

25 5. An annual report on the effectiveness of the grant
26 program in addressing school readiness and children's health
27 and safety needs shall be submitted by the community board to
28 the Iowa empowerment board and to the local governing bodies.
29 The annual report shall indicate the effectiveness of the
30 community board in achieving state and locally determined
31 goals.

32 6. A school ready children grant to a community board
33 shall be awarded for a five-year period, with annual payments
34 made to the community board on or before October 1 of each
35 fiscal year. However, receipt of continued funding is subject

1 to submission of the required annual report.

2 The Iowa empowerment board shall distribute school ready
3 children grant moneys to community boards with approved
4 comprehensive school ready children grant plans in accordance
5 with the following formula:

6 a. A funding percentage shall be identified for each
7 school district in the state. The funding percentage shall be
8 the school district's proportion of the children who are
9 enrolled in the school district first through sixth grade
10 qualifying for free or reduced price meals for the school year
11 preceding the fiscal year in which the moneys are to be paid
12 compared to all children in the state who are enrolled in
13 first through sixth grade qualifying for free or reduced price
14 meals for the same school year.

15 b. A community empowerment area funding percentage shall
16 be determined by adding the funding percentages for each
17 school district in the community empowerment area.

18 c. The maximum annual grant amount for a community
19 empowerment area is the area's funding percentage of the
20 amount appropriated for school ready children grants for a
21 fiscal year.

22 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 71.6 IOWA EMPOWERMENT FUND.

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24 treasury under the authority of the Iowa empowerment board.
25 The moneys in the Iowa empowerment fund are not subject to
26 section 8.33 and shall not be transferred, used, obligated,
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29 earnings on moneys deposited in the Iowa empowerment fund
30 shall be credited to the fund.

31 2. A school ready children grants account is created in
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34 empowerment areas as provided in law.

35 Sec. 7. SCHOOL READY CHILDREN GRANTS. There is

1 appropriated from the general fund of the state to the Iowa
2 empowerment fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1998,
3 and ending June 30, 1999, the following amount, or so much
4 thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purpose
5 designated:

6 For deposit to the credit of the school ready children
7 grants account:

8 \$ 5,200,000

9 Sec. 8. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT. The general
10 assembly recognizes the significant findings of brain research
11 indicating that early stimulation of the brain increases the
12 learning ability of a child. In order for children to be
13 ready for school by age five, it is the intent of the general
14 assembly that implementation of the provisions of this Act
15 will accomplish the following:

16 1. Foster collaboration among state agencies which shall
17 initially include the departments of human services,
18 education, and public health, and allow the blending of these
19 agencies' funding and other resources.

20 2. Establish community empowerment areas with broad
21 community representation with the goal of providing
22 collaborative services to children from birth through age five
23 for the purpose of improving the quality of these children's
24 lives.

25 Sec. 9. IOWA EMPOWERMENT BOARD. The Iowa empowerment
26 board shall adopt rules, arrange for technical assistance,
27 provide guidance and take other actions needed to assist the
28 formation of community empowerment areas and community
29 empowerment boards and to enable the community empowerment
30 area boards to submit school ready grant plans in a timely
31 manner for the initial grants to be awarded and grant moneys
32 to be paid by October 1, 1998, in accordance with this Act.

33 Sec. 10. INITIAL COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREAS AND BOARDS.

34 1. The chairperson of each county board of supervisors
35 shall convene the persons listed in this section to meet for

1 purposes of designating a community empowerment area or areas
2 and creating a community empowerment board or boards. The
3 chairpersons of the boards of supervisors in contiguous
4 counties may elect to hold a joint meeting for a multicounty
5 area. The persons shall be convened as soon after the
6 effective date of this Act as is practical. All of the
7 following shall be invited to the meeting for each county:
8 a. The chairperson of the county board of supervisors of
9 the county or a county supervisor designated by the
10 chairperson.
11 b. Not more than two school board members designated by
12 the school boards of the school district or districts in the
13 county.
14 c. Not more than two mayors designated by the city
15 councils of the cities in the county.
16 d. The administrator of the department of human services'
17 local office in the county.
18 e. The administrator of public health service in the
19 county.
20 2. The county office of the Iowa cooperative extension
21 service in agriculture and home economics shall provide a
22 training session for the meeting. The training session shall
23 be held within 45 days of the effective date of this Act. The
24 persons invited to the meeting may designate an initial
25 community empowerment area or areas and identify the initial
26 community empowerment board for a designated community
27 empowerment area. Subsequent to designation of the initial
28 board, the ongoing membership shall be determined by the board
29 itself in accordance with applicable law and any requirements
30 adopted by the Iowa empowerment board.
31 3. A community empowerment area designated and board
32 identified in accordance with this section shall be designated
33 and created on or before July 1, 1998, or within 45 days of
34 the effective date of this Act, whichever is later. A
35 community empowerment area designated or board created after

1 July 1, 1998, or within 45 days of the effective date of this
2 Act, whichever is later, shall be designated or created in
3 accordance with the requirements developed for these purposes
4 by the Iowa empowerment board.

5 Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of
6 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

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SENATE FILE 2406

H-8455

1 Amend Senate File 2406, as amended, passed, and
2 reprinted by the Senate, as follows:

3 1. By striking everything after the enacting
4 clause and inserting the following:

5 "Section 1. NEW SECTION. 7I.1 DEFINITIONS.

6 For the purposes of this chapter, unless the
7 context otherwise requires:

8 1. "Community empowerment area" means a geographic
9 area designated in accordance with this chapter.

10 2. "Community empowerment area board" or
11 "community board" means the board for a community
12 empowerment area created in accordance with this
13 chapter.

14 3. "Decategorization project" means a
15 decategorization of child welfare and juvenile justice
16 funding project operated under section 232.188.

17 4. "Innovation zone" means a local jurisdiction
18 implementing an innovation zone plan in accordance
19 with section 8A.2, Code 1997.

20 5. "Iowa empowerment board" or "Iowa board" means
21 the Iowa empowerment board created in this chapter.

22 Sec. ____ . NEW SECTION. 7I.2 IOWA EMPOWERMENT
23 BOARD CREATED.

24 1. An Iowa empowerment board is created to oversee
25 state and community efforts involving community
26 empowerment areas, including strategic planning,
27 funding identification, and guidance, and to promote
28 collaboration among state and local education, health,
29 and human services programs.

30 2. The Iowa board shall consist of eleven voting
31 members with eight citizen members and three state
32 agency members. The three state agency members shall
33 be the directors of the following departments:
34 education, human services, and public health. The
35 citizen members shall be appointed by the governor,
36 subject to confirmation by the senate. The
37 appointments of citizen members shall be made in a
38 manner so that all of the state's congressional
39 districts are represented along with the ethnic,
40 cultural, social, and economic diversity of the state.
41 In making appointments, preference shall be given to
42 citizens participating on a community empowerment area
43 board. Terms of office of citizen members are three
44 years.

45 3. Citizen members shall be reimbursed for actual
46 and necessary expenses incurred in performance of
47 their duties. Members shall be paid a per diem as
48 specified in section 7E.6.

49 4. In addition to the eleven voting members, the
50 Iowa board shall include six members of the general

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1 assembly with not more than two members from each
2 chamber being from the same political party. The
3 three senators shall be appointed by the majority
4 leader of the senate after consultation with the
5 president of the senate and the minority leader of the
6 senate. The three representatives shall be appointed
7 by the speaker of the house of representatives after
8 consultation with the majority and minority leaders of
9 the house of representatives. Legislative members
10 shall serve in an ex officio, nonvoting capacity. A
11 legislative member is eligible for per diem and
12 expenses as provided in section 2.10.

13 5. The Iowa board shall designate a community
14 empowerment assistance team or teams of state agency
15 staff to provide technical assistance and other
16 support to community empowerment areas. The technical
17 assistance shall be available in at least three levels
18 of support as follows:

19 a. Support to areas experienced in operating an
20 innovation zone or decategorization project with an
21 extensive record of success in collaboration between
22 education, health, or human services interests.

23 b. Support to areas experienced in operating an
24 innovation zone or decategorization project.

25 c. Support to areas forming an initial community
26 empowerment area with no previous experience operating
27 an innovation zone or decategorization project.

28 6. Staffing services to the Iowa board shall be
29 provided by the state agencies which are represented
30 on the Iowa board and by other state agencies making
31 staffing available to the board.

32 7. The Iowa board may designate an advisory
33 council consisting of representatives from community
34 empowerment area boards.

35 8. The Iowa board shall elect a chairperson from
36 among the citizen board members and may select other
37 officers from among the citizen board members as
38 determined to be necessary by the board. The board
39 shall meet regularly as determined by the board, upon
40 the call of the board's chairperson, or upon the call
41 of a majority of voting members.

42 Sec. ____ . NEW SECTION. 7I.3 IOWA EMPOWERMENT
43 BOARD DUTIES.

44 The Iowa board shall perform the following duties:

45 1. Perform duties relating to community
46 empowerment areas.

47 2. Oversee the provision of grant funding and
48 other moneys made available to community empowerment
49 areas by combining all or portions of appropriations
50 or other revenues as authorized by law.

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1 3. Develop advanced community empowerment area
2 arrangements for those community empowerment areas
3 which were formed in transition from an innovation
4 zone or from a decategorization governance board or
5 which otherwise provide evidence of extensive
6 successful experience in managing services and funding
7 with high levels of community support and input.

8 4. Identify boards, commissions, committees, and
9 other bodies in state government with overlapping and
10 similar purposes which contribute to redundancy and
11 fragmentation in education, health, and human services
12 programs provided to the public. The board shall also
13 make recommendations to the governor and general
14 assembly as appropriate for increasing coordination
15 between these bodies, for consolidation where
16 appropriate, and for integration of functions to
17 achieve improved results.

18 5. Assist with the linkage of child welfare and
19 juvenile justice decategorization projects with
20 community empowerment areas.

21 6. Integrate the duties relating to innovation
22 zones in the place of the innovation zone board
23 created in section 8A.2, Code 1997, until the Iowa
24 board determines the innovation zones have been
25 replaced with community empowerment areas.

26 7. Coordinate and respond to any requests from a
27 community board relating to any of the following:

28 a. Waiver of existing rules, federal regulation,
29 or amendment of state law, or removal of other
30 barriers.

31 b. Pooling and redirecting of existing federal,
32 state, or other public or private funds.

33 c. Seeking of federal waivers.

34 In coordinating and responding to the requests, the
35 Iowa board shall work with state agencies and submit
36 proposals to the governor and general assembly as
37 necessary to fulfill requests deemed appropriate by
38 the Iowa board.

39 8. Provide for maximum flexibility and creativity
40 in the designation and administration of the
41 responsibilities and authority of community
42 empowerment areas.

43 9. Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A as
44 necessary for the designation, governance, and
45 oversight of community empowerment areas and the
46 administration of this chapter. The Iowa board shall
47 provide for community board input in the rules
48 adoption process.

49 Sec. . NEW SECTION. 71.4 COMMUNITY
50 EMPOWERMENT AREAS.

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1 1. The purpose of a community empowerment area is
2 to enable local citizens to lead collaborative efforts
3 involving education, health, and human services
4 programs on behalf of the children, families, and
5 other citizens residing in the area. Leadership
6 functions may include but are not limited to strategic
7 planning for and oversight and managing of such
8 programs and the funding made available to the
9 community empowerment area for such programs from
10 federal, state, local, and private sources.

11 2. Each county and school district in the state
12 shall have the option of participating in a community
13 empowerment area. A community empowerment area shall
14 be designated by using existing school district and
15 county boundaries to the extent possible. For
16 geographic areas that are part of an innovation zone
17 or included in a decategorization project in effect as
18 of July 1, 1998, the initial community empowerment
19 area shall be the larger of the two.

20 3. The designation of a community empowerment area
21 and the creation of a community empowerment area board
22 are subject to the approval of the Iowa empowerment
23 board. Criteria used by the Iowa empowerment board in
24 approving the designation of a community empowerment
25 area shall include but are not limited to the
26 existence of a large enough geographic area and
27 population to efficiently and effectively administer
28 the responsibilities and authority of the community
29 empowerment area. The Iowa empowerment board shall
30 adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A providing
31 procedures for the initial designation of community
32 empowerment areas and for later changing the initially
33 designated areas.

34 Sec. ____ . NEW SECTION. 7I.5 COMMUNITY
35 EMPOWERMENT AREA BOARDS CREATED.

36 1. A community empowerment area shall be governed
37 by a community empowerment area board. A majority of
38 the members of a community board shall be citizens and
39 elected officials and the remaining members may be
40 employees of or paid for representing any of the
41 entities listed in this subsection. The members of a
42 community empowerment area board may include one or
43 more representatives of any of the following entities:

- 44 a. A school district.
- 45 b. A county.
- 46 c. A local board of health.
- 47 d. A hospital.
- 48 e. A charitable funding group.
- 49 f. The department of human services.
- 50 g. A religious institution.

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- 1 h. An area education agency.
- 2 i. Juvenile court services.
- 3 j. An area substance abuse agency.
- 4 k. A community action program.
- 5 l. A city.
- 6 m. A business organization.
- 7 n. A labor organization.
- 8 o. A service club.
- 9 p. A business.
- 10 q. Consumers.
- 11 r. Others as determined by the community board.
- 12 2. A community board may designate representatives
- 13 of service providers or public agency staff to provide
- 14 technical assistance to the community board.
- 15 3. A community board may designate a professional
- 16 advisory council consisting of persons employed by or
- 17 otherwise paid to represent an entity listed in
- 18 subsection 1 or other provider of service.
- 19 4. The community board shall elect a chairperson
- 20 from among the members who are citizens, elected
- 21 officials, or volunteers.
- 22 Sec. ____ . NEW SECTION. 71.6 COMMUNITY
- 23 EMPOWERMENT AREA BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY.
- 24 1. A community empowerment area board shall do the
- 25 following:
- 26 a. Designate a public agency of this state, as
- 27 defined in section 28E.2, to be the fiscal agent for
- 28 grant moneys and for other moneys administered by the
- 29 community board.
- 30 b. Administer community empowerment grant moneys
- 31 available from the state to the community board as
- 32 provided by law and other federal, state, local, and
- 33 private moneys made available to the community board.
- 34 Eligibility for receipt of community empowerment grant
- 35 moneys shall be limited to those community boards that
- 36 have developed an approved school ready children grant
- 37 plan in accordance with this chapter. A community
- 38 board may apply to the Iowa empowerment board to
- 39 receive as a community empowerment grant those moneys
- 40 which would otherwise only be available within the
- 41 geographic area through categorical funding sources or
- 42 programs.
- 43 c. If a community empowerment area includes a
- 44 decategorization project, coordinate planning and
- 45 budgeting with the decategorization governing board.
- 46 By mutual agreement between the community board and
- 47 the decategorization governance board, the community
- 48 board may assume the duties of the decategorization
- 49 governance board or the decategorization governance
- 50 board may continue as a committee of the community

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1 board.
2 d. Assume other responsibilities established by
3 law or administrative rule.
4 2. A community board may do any of the following:
5 a. Designate one or more committees for oversight
6 of grant moneys awarded to the community empowerment
7 area.
8 b. Function as a coordinating body for services
9 offered by different entities directed to similar
10 purposes within the community empowerment area.
11 c. Develop neighborhood bodies for community-level
12 input to the community board and implementation of
13 services.

14 Sec. ____ . NEW SECTION. 7I.7 SCHOOL READY
15 CHILDREN GRANT PROGRAM -- ESTABLISHMENT AND
16 ADMINISTRATION.

17 1. The departments of education, human services,
18 and public health shall jointly develop and promote a
19 school ready children grant program which shall
20 provide for all of the following components:
21 a. Identify the core indicators of performance
22 that will be used to assess the effectiveness of the
23 school ready children grants, including increasing the
24 basic skill levels of students entering school,
25 increasing the health status of children, reducing the
26 incidence of child abuse and neglect, increasing the
27 access of children to an adult mentor, increasing
28 parental involvement with their children, and
29 increasing the quality and accessibility of child day
30 care.
31 b. Identify guidelines and a process to be used
32 for determining the readiness of a community
33 empowerment area for administering school ready
34 children grants.
35 c. Provide for technical assistance concerning
36 funding sources, program design, and other pertinent
37 areas.
38 2. The program developed and components identified
39 under subsection 1 are subject to approval by the Iowa
40 empowerment board. The Iowa empowerment board shall
41 provide maximum flexibility to grantees for the use of
42 the grant moneys included in a school ready children
43 grant.
44 3. A school ready children grant shall, at a
45 minimum, be used to provide the following:
46 a. Preschool services provided on a voluntary
47 basis to four-year-old children deemed at risk of not
48 succeeding in elementary school as determined by the
49 community board and specified in the grant plan
50 developed in accordance with this section.

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1 b. Parent education programs promoted to parents
2 of children from birth through five years of age.
3 Parent education programs shall be offered in a
4 flexible manner to accommodate the varying schedules,
5 meeting place requirements, and other needs of working
6 parents.

7 c. A comprehensive school ready children grant
8 plan developed by a community board for providing
9 services for children from birth through five years of
10 age including but not limited to child development
11 services, child care services, children's health and
12 safety services, assessment services to identify
13 chemically exposed infants and children, and parent
14 education services. At a minimum, the plan shall do
15 all of the following:

16 (1) Describe community needs for children from
17 birth through five years of age as identified through
18 ongoing assessments.

19 (2) Describe the current and desired levels of
20 community coordination of services for children from
21 birth through five years of age.

22 (3) Identify all federal, state, local, and
23 private funding sources available in the community
24 empowerment area that will be used to provide services
25 to children from birth through five years of age.

26 (4) Describe how funding sources will be used
27 collaboratively and the degree to which the moneys can
28 be combined to provide necessary services to children.

29 (5) Identify the results the community board
30 expects to achieve through implementation of the
31 school ready children grant program, and identify
32 community-specific quantifiable performance indicators
33 to be reported in the annual report.

34 4. The community board shall submit an annual
35 report on the effectiveness of the grant program in
36 addressing school readiness and children's health and
37 safety needs to the Iowa empowerment board and to the
38 local governing bodies. The annual report shall
39 indicate the effectiveness of the community board in
40 achieving state and locally determined goals.

41 5. a. A school ready children grant shall be
42 awarded to a community board for a three-year period,
43 with annual payments made to the community board on or
44 before October 1 of each fiscal year. The Iowa
45 empowerment board may grant an extension from the
46 award date and any application deadlines based upon
47 the award date, to allow for a later implementation
48 date in the initial year in which a community board
49 submits a comprehensive school ready grant plan to the
50 Iowa empowerment board. However, receipt of continued

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1 funding is subject to submission of the required
2 annual report.

3 b. The Iowa empowerment board shall distribute
4 school ready children grant moneys to community boards
5 with approved comprehensive school ready children
6 grant plans based upon the degree of readiness of the
7 community empowerment area to effectively utilize the
8 moneys, with the grant moneys being adjusted for other
9 federal and state grant moneys to be received by the
10 area for services to children from birth through five
11 years of age.

12 c. A community board's degree of readiness shall
13 be ascertained by evidence of successful collaboration
14 between education, human services, or public health
15 interests or a documented program design evincing a
16 strong likelihood of leading to a successful
17 collaboration between these interests. Other criteria
18 which may be used by the Iowa board to ascertain
19 degree of readiness and to determine funding amounts
20 include one or more of the following:

21 (1) Experience or other evidence of capacity to
22 successfully implement the services in the plan.

23 (2) Local funding and other resources committed to
24 implementation of the plan.

25 6. The highest priority for school ready children
26 grant funds shall be to provide preschool services on
27 a voluntary basis to four-year-old children deemed at
28 risk of not succeeding in elementary school and parent
29 education programs on a voluntary basis to parents of
30 children from birth through five years of age.
31 Remaining funds may be used to provide other services
32 to children from birth through five years of age as
33 specified in the comprehensive school ready children
34 grant plan.

35 Sec. ____ . NEW SECTION. 7I.8 IOWA EMPOWERMENT
36 FUND.

37 1. An Iowa empowerment fund is created in the
38 state treasury under the authority of the Iowa
39 empowerment board. The moneys in the Iowa empowerment
40 fund are not subject to section 8.33 and shall not be
41 transferred, used, obligated, appropriated, or
42 otherwise encumbered except as provided by law.
43 Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest
44 or earnings on moneys deposited in the Iowa
45 empowerment fund shall be credited to the fund.

46 2. A school ready children grants account is
47 created in the Iowa empowerment fund and moneys
48 credited to the account shall be distributed in the
49 form of grants to community empowerment areas as
50 provided by law.

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1 Sec. ____ . Section 135.106, subsection 3, Code
2 Supplement 1997, is amended to read as follows:
3 3. It is the intent of the general assembly to
4 provide communities with the discretion and authority
5 to redesign existing local programs and services
6 targeted at and assisting families expecting babies
7 and families with children who are newborn through
8 five years of age. The Iowa department of public
9 health, department of human services, department of
10 education, and other state agencies and programs, as
11 appropriate, shall provide technical assistance and
12 support to communities desiring to redesign their
13 local programs and shall facilitate the consolidation
14 of existing state funding appropriated and made
15 available to the community for family support
16 services. Funds which are consolidated in accordance
17 with this subsection shall be used to support the
18 redesigned service delivery system. In redesigning
19 services, communities are encouraged to implement a
20 single uniform family risk assessment mechanism and
21 shall demonstrate the potential for improved outcomes
22 for children and families. Requests by local
23 communities for the redesigning of services shall be
24 submitted to ~~and-subject-to-joint-approval-of~~ the Iowa
25 department of public health, department of human
26 services, and department of education, and are subject
27 to the approval of the Iowa empowerment board in
28 consultation with the departments, based on the
29 innovation zones zone principles established in
30 section 8A.2, Code 1997.

31 Sec. ____ . Section 232.188, subsection 7, Code
32 1997, is amended to read as follows:
33 7. The annual child welfare services plan
34 developed by a decategorization governance board
35 pursuant to subsection 2 shall be submitted to the
36 department and the ~~statewide-decategorization-and~~
37 ~~family-preservation-committee~~ Iowa empowerment board.
38 In addition, the decategorization governance board
39 shall submit an annual progress report to the
40 department and the ~~committee~~ Iowa empowerment board
41 which summarizes the progress made toward attaining
42 the objectives contained in the plan. The progress
43 report shall serve as an opportunity for information
44 sharing and feedback.

45 Sec. ____ . LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.
46 1. The general assembly recognizes the significant
47 findings of brain research indicating that early
48 stimulation of the brain increases the learning
49 ability of a child. In order for children to be ready
50 for school by age five, it is the intent of the

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1 general assembly that implementation of the provisions
2 of this Act will accomplish the following:

3 a. Foster collaboration among state agencies which
4 shall initially include the departments of human
5 services, education, and public health, and allow the
6 blending of these agencies' funding and other
7 resources.

8 b. Establish community empowerment areas with
9 broad community representation with the goal of
10 providing services collaboratively to children from
11 birth through five years of age for the purpose of
12 improving the quality of these children's lives.

13 2. It is the intent of the general assembly that
14 over time community empowerment areas will be
15 developed in every part of the state. It is
16 anticipated that as local empowerment areas evolve and
17 most effectively implement the provisions of this Act
18 in their areas, the initial structure for community
19 empowerment areas provided in this Act will be revised
20 by the Iowa empowerment board and by the general
21 assembly in order to best promote collaboration among
22 state and local education, health, and human services
23 programs.

24 3. It is the intent of the general assembly that
25 the duties of child welfare and juvenile justice
26 decategorization projects and innovation zones will
27 eventually be assumed by community empowerment areas.

28 Sec. _____. IOWA EMPOWERMENT BOARD. The Iowa
29 empowerment board shall adopt rules, arrange for
30 technical assistance, provide guidance, and take other
31 actions needed to assist the designation of community
32 empowerment areas and creation of community
33 empowerment boards and to enable the community
34 empowerment area boards to submit school ready
35 children grant plans in a timely manner for the
36 initial grants to be awarded and grant moneys to be
37 paid by October 1, 1998, in accordance with this Act.

38 Sec. _____. INITIAL COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREAS AND
39 BOARDS.

40 1. Notwithstanding section 7I.5, as enacted by
41 this Act, providing for the creation of community
42 empowerment area boards, for an area in which the
43 initial community empowerment area is an innovation
44 zone or a decategorization project, the initial
45 community empowerment area board shall be the
46 innovation zone board or the decategorization
47 governance board, as appropriate. In addition to any
48 members of the innovation zone board or
49 decategorization governance board, the initial
50 community empowerment board shall include at a

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1 minimum, representatives of school districts, county
 2 boards of supervisors, cities, juvenile court
 3 services, public health and human services
 4 administrators in the community empowerment area, and
 5 parents of children living in the area. If the
 6 composition of the initial board does not comply with
 7 the composition requirements of section 7I.5, the
 8 board shall comply with the composition requirements
 9 on or before June 30, 2000.

10 2. For an area which is not included in an
 11 innovation zone or a decategorization project or for
 12 an area desiring to be included in a different zone or
 13 project, the area may by mutual agreement be included
 14 in a community empowerment area created from an
 15 innovation zone or a decategorization project.
 16 Otherwise, the area shall comply with requirements for
 17 designation of a community empowerment area adopted
 18 for this purpose by the Iowa empowerment board.

19 Sec. ____ . TRANSITION BOARD. For the period
 20 beginning on the effective date of this Act and ending
 21 December 1, 1998, when the governor shall have
 22 completed the appointments to the Iowa empowerment
 23 board, the duties of the Iowa empowerment board under
 24 section 7I.3, as enacted by this Act, shall be
 25 performed by a transition board consisting of the
 26 directors of the departments of human services,
 27 education, and public health, citizen members of the
 28 innovation zone board created in section 8A.2, Code
 29 1997, and the six ex officio, nonvoting legislative
 30 members of the board.

31 Sec. ____ . EMERGENCY RULES. The transition Iowa
 32 empowerment board, as established by this Act, may
 33 adopt emergency rules under section 17A.4, subsection
 34 2, and section 17A.5, subsection 2, paragraph "b", to
 35 implement the provisions of this Act and the rules
 36 shall be effective immediately upon filing unless a
 37 later date is specified in the rules. Any rules
 38 adopted in accordance with this section shall also be
 39 published as a notice of intended action as provided
 40 in section 17A.4.

41 Sec. ____ . FUNDING AUTHORIZATION. For the fiscal
 42 year beginning July 1, 1998, and ending June 30, 1999,
 43 the Iowa empowerment board may determine amounts of
 44 appropriations and categorical program funding for the
 45 programs listed in this section which can be
 46 attributed to community empowerment areas and may
 47 reallocate the attributable portions to the community
 48 empowerment areas which have applied for and are
 49 determined to be eligible to receive the funding in
 50 the form of a community empowerment grant.

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1 Eligibility shall be limited to those community
2 empowerment areas determined by the Iowa empowerment
3 board under section 7I.3, as enacted by this Act, to
4 be eligible for an advanced community empowerment area
5 arrangement. Subject to any federal limitations, the
6 programs for which funding may be reallocated under
7 this section are as follows:

- 8 1. Child day care.
- 9 2. At-risk programs for preschool children.
- 10 3. Head start programs.
- 11 4. Parent education programs.
- 12 5. Children's health programs.
- 13 6. Substance abuse assessment and referral.

14 Sec. ____ . INITIAL APPOINTMENTS. The governor
15 shall make the initial citizen appointments to the
16 Iowa empowerment board created in section 7I.2, as
17 enacted in this Act, as follows:

- 18 1. Two members to a one-year term.
- 19 2. Three members to a two-year term.
- 20 3. Three members to a three-year term.

21 Sec. ____ . Sections 8A.2 and 217.9A, Code 1997, are
22 repealed effective June 30, 1998.

23 Sec. ____ . EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed
24 of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment."

25 2. Title page, by striking lines 1 through 4 and
26 inserting the following: "An Act creating and
27 relating to an Iowa empowerment board, community
28 empowerment areas, and community empowerment area
29 boards, and providing an effective date."

By COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
GRIES of Crawford, Chairperson

H-8455 FILED MARCH 17, 1998

adopted
3/30/98

(p. 1064)

SENATE FILE 2406

H-8755

1 Amend the amendment, H-8455, to Senate File 2406,
2 as amended, passed, and reprinted by the Senate, as
3 follows:

4 1. Page 3, line 48, by inserting after the word
5 "process." the following: "The rules shall include
6 but are not limited to the following:

7 a. Performance indicators for community
8 empowerment areas, community boards, and the services
9 provided under the auspices of the community boards.
10 The performance indicators shall be developed with
11 input from community boards and shall build upon the
12 core indicators of performance for the school ready
13 grant program, as described in section 7I.7.

14 b. Minimum standards to further the provision of
15 equal access to services subject to the authority of
16 community boards."

17 2. Page 8, line 2, by inserting after the word
18 "report" the following: "and the Iowa board's
19 determination that the community board is measuring,
20 through the use of performance indicators developed by
21 the Iowa board with input from community boards,
22 progress toward and is achieving the desired results
23 identified in the grant plan. If progress is not
24 measured through the use of performance indicators
25 toward achieving the identified results, the Iowa
26 board may request a plan of corrective action or may
27 withdraw grant funding".

28 3. By renumbering as necessary.

By FORD of Polk
FOEGE of Linn

H-8755 FILED MARCH 26, 1998

adopted 3/30/98

(p. 1062)

SENATE FILE 2406

H-8723

1 Amend the amendment, H-8455, to Senate File 2406,
2 as amended, passed, and reprinted by the Senate, as
3 follows:

4 1. Page 1, by inserting after line 4 the
5 following:

6 "Sec. ____ . PURPOSE. The purpose of this Act is to
7 create a partnership between communities and state
8 government to improve the well-being of families with
9 young children. In addition, the purpose of this Act
10 is to reduce duplicative bureaucratic requirements
11 that are barriers to community efforts to improve the
12 efficiency and effectiveness of local education,
13 health, and human services programs."

14 2. Page 3, line 15, by inserting after the word
15 "bodies," the following: "for eliminating
16 bureaucratic duplication,".

17 3. Page 3, by inserting after line 33 the
18 following:

19 "d. Consolidating community-level committees,
20 planning groups, and other bodies with common
21 memberships formed in response to state requirements."

22 4. Page 3, line 48, by inserting after the word
23 "process." the following: "The rules shall include
24 but are not limited to the following:

25 a. The core indicators of performance for the
26 school ready grant program, as described in section
27 71.7.

28 b. Minimum standards to further the provision of
29 equal access to services subject to the authority of
30 community boards."

31 5. Page 4, line 10, by inserting after the word
32 "sources." the following: "The initial focus of the
33 purpose is to improve results for families with young
34 children."

35 6. Page 4, line 41, by inserting after the word
36 "subsection." the following: "Terms of office of
37 community board members shall be three years."

38 7. Page 5, by inserting after line 10 the
39 following:

40 " . . . A private community-based organization."

41 8. Page 8, line 2, by inserting after the word
42 "report" the following: "and the Iowa board's
43 determination that the community board is measuring
44 through the use of performance indicators progress
45 toward and is achieving the desired results identified
46 in the grant plan. If progress is not measured
47 through the use of performance indicators toward
48 achieving the identified results, the Iowa board may
49 request a plan of corrective action or may withdraw
50 grant funding".

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1 9. Page 8, by striking line 14, and inserting the
2 following: "among public or private education, human
3 services, or health".

4 10. Page 10, by striking lines 44 through 50 and
5 inserting the following: "zone, one or more school
6 districts, or a decategorization project, the initial
7 community empowerment board shall be the innovation
8 zone board, representatives of the school board or
9 boards, or the decategorization governing board, as
10 determined to be appropriate by the Iowa empowerment
11 board. In addition to any members of the innovation
12 zone board, representatives of the school board or
13 boards, or decategorization governance board, the
14 initial community empowerment board shall include at
15 a".

A

16 11. By renumbering as necessary.

By HOUSER of Pottawattamie	NELSON of Marshall
GRUNDBERG of Polk	BODDICKER of Cedar
FOEGE of Linn	HANSEN of Pottawattamie
MASCHER of Johnson	FORD of Polk
HEATON of Henry	

H-8723 FILED MARCH 25, 1998
A. adopted 3/30/98 (P. 1061)
B. O/order 3/30/98 (P. 1062)
SENATE FILE 2406

H-8724

1 Amend the amendment, H-8455, to Senate File 2406,
2 as amended, passed, and reprinted by the Senate, as
3 follows:

4 1. Page 5, by inserting after line 10 the
5 following:

6 "_____. A neighborhood association."

7 2. By renumbering as necessary.

By FORD of Polk

H-8724 FILED MARCH 25, 1998

adopted
3/30/98 (P. 1063)

SENATE FILE 2406

H-8642

1 Amend the amendment, H-8455, to Senate File 2406,
2 as amended, passed, and reprinted by the Senate, as
3 follows:
4 1. Page 1, line 43, by inserting after the word
5 "board." the following: "At least one of the citizen
6 members shall be a service consumer or the parent of a
7 service consumer."
8 2. Page 4, line 41, by inserting after the word
9 "subsection." the following: "At least one member
10 shall be a service consumer or the parent of a service
11 consumer."

By BRAND of Tama

H-8642 FILED MARCH 24, 1998

Adopted 3/30/98 (p. 1061)

SENATE FILE 2406

H-8656

1 Amend the amendment, H-8455, to Senate File 2406,
2 as amended, passed, and reprinted by the Senate, as
3 follows:
4 1. Page 4, line 41, by inserting after the word
5 "subsection." the following: "Terms of office of
6 community board members shall be three years."

By FORD of Polk

H-8656 FILED MARCH 24, 1998

Order 3/30/98 (p. 1061)

SENATE FILE 2406

H-8657

1 Amend the amendment, H-8455, to Senate File 2406,
2 as amended, passed, and reprinted by the Senate, as
3 follows:
4 1. Page 1, line 43, by inserting after the word
5 "board." the following: "At least one of the citizen
6 members shall be director of a nonprofit community
7 service organization."
8 2. Page 5, by inserting after line 10 the
9 following:
10 "____. A director of a nonprofit community service
11 organization."
12 3. By renumbering as necessary.

By FORD of Polk

H-8657 FILED MARCH 24, 1998

*W/D 3/30/98
(p. 1062)*

SENATE FILE 2406

H-8789

1 Amend the amendment, H-8455, to Senate File 2406,
2 as amended, passed, and reprinted by the Senate, as
3 follows:

4 1. Page 8, lines 38 and 39, by striking the words
5 "under the authority of the Iowa empowerment board".

6 2. Page 8, by striking lines 46 through 50 and
7 inserting the following:

8 "2. A school ready children grants account is
9 created in the Iowa empowerment fund under the
10 authority of the director of the department of
11 education. Moneys credited to the account shall be
12 distributed by the department of education in the form
13 of grants to community empowerment areas pursuant to
14 criteria established by the Iowa board in accordance
15 with law.

16 3. An early childhood programs grant account is
17 created in the Iowa empowerment fund under the
18 authority of the director of human services. Moneys
19 credited to the account shall be distributed by the
20 department of human services in the form of grants to
21 community empowerment areas pursuant to criteria
22 established by the Iowa board in accordance with law."

23 3. Page 10, line 37 by inserting after the word
24 "Act." the following: "The Iowa board shall submit to
25 the governor and the general assembly a proposed
26 funding formula for distribution of school ready
27 children grant moneys as necessary for statewide
28 implementation of the grant program for the fiscal
29 year beginning July 1, 1999, and subsequent fiscal
30 years."

31 4. Page 11, line 46 by inserting after the word
32 "may" the following: "recommend that the appropriate
33 department".

34 5. By renumbering as necessary.

By HOUSER of Pottawattamie

H-8789 FILED MARCH 30, 1998

adopted

3/30/98

(p. 1064)

W. HOUSER

SENATE FILE 2406

H-8775

- 1 Amend the amendment, H-8455, to Senate File 2406,
2 as amended, passed, and reprinted by the Senate, as
3 follows:
- 4 1. Page 8, lines 38 and 39, by striking the words
5 "under the authority of the Iowa empowerment board".
6 2. Page 8, by striking lines 46 through 50 and
7 inserting the following:
8 "2. A school ready children grants account is
9 created in the Iowa empowerment fund under the
10 authority of the director of the department of
11 education. Moneys credited to the account shall be
12 distributed in the form of grants to community
13 empowerment areas as recommended by the Iowa board in
14 accordance with law.
15 3. An early childhood programs grant account is
16 created in the Iowa empowerment fund under the
17 authority of the director of human services. Moneys
18 credited to the account shall be distributed in the
19 form of grants to community empowerment areas as
20 recommended by the Iowa board in accordance with law."
21 3. Page 10, line 37 by inserting after the word
22 "Act." the following: "The Iowa board shall submit to
23 the governor and the general assembly a proposed
24 funding formula for distribution of school ready
25 children grant moneys as necessary for statewide
26 implementation of the grant program for the fiscal
27 year beginning July 1, 1999, and subsequent fiscal
28 years."
29 4. Page 11, line 46 by inserting after the word
30 "may" the following: "recommend that the appropriate
31 department".
32 5. By renumbering as necessary.

By HOUSER of Pottawattamie

H-8775 FILED MARCH 30, 1998

WITHDRAWN

3/30/98

(P 1063)

HOUSE AMENDMENT TO
SENATE FILE 2406

S-5439

1 Amend Senate File 2406, as amended, passed, and
2 reprinted by the Senate, as follows:

3 1. By striking everything after the enacting
4 clause and inserting the following:

5 "Section 1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Act is
6 to create a partnership between communities and state
7 government to improve the well-being of families with
8 young children. In addition, the purpose of this Act
9 is to reduce duplicative bureaucratic requirements
10 that are barriers to community efforts to improve the
11 efficiency and effectiveness of local education,
12 health, and human services programs.

13 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 71.1 DEFINITIONS.

14 For the purposes of this chapter, unless the
15 context otherwise requires:

16 1. "Community empowerment area" means a geographic
17 area designated in accordance with this chapter.

18 2. "Community empowerment area board" or
19 "community board" means the board for a community
20 empowerment area created in accordance with this
21 chapter.

22 3. "Decategorization project" means a
23 decategorization of child welfare and juvenile justice
24 funding project operated under section 232.188.

25 4. "Innovation zone" means a local jurisdiction
26 implementing an innovation zone plan in accordance
27 with section 8A.2, Code 1997.

28 5. "Iowa empowerment board" or "Iowa board" means
29 the Iowa empowerment board created in this chapter.

30 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 71.2 IOWA EMPOWERMENT BOARD
31 CREATED.

32 1. An Iowa empowerment board is created to oversee
33 state and community efforts involving community
34 empowerment areas, including strategic planning,
35 funding identification, and guidance, and to promote
36 collaboration among state and local education, health,
37 and human services programs.

38 2. The Iowa board shall consist of eleven voting
39 members with eight citizen members and three state
40 agency members. The three state agency members shall
41 be the directors of the following departments:
42 education, human services, and public health. The
43 citizen members shall be appointed by the governor,
44 subject to confirmation by the senate. The
45 appointments of citizen members shall be made in a
46 manner so that all of the state's congressional
47 districts are represented along with the ethnic,
48 cultural, social, and economic diversity of the state.
49 In making appointments, preference shall be given to
50 citizens participating on a community empowerment area

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1 board. At least one of the citizen members shall be a
2 service consumer or the parent of a service consumer.
3 Terms of office of citizen members are three years.

4 3. Citizen members shall be reimbursed for actual
5 and necessary expenses incurred in performance of
6 their duties. Members shall be paid a per diem as
7 specified in section 7E.6.

8 4. In addition to the eleven voting members, the
9 Iowa board shall include six members of the general
10 assembly with not more than two members from each
11 chamber being from the same political party. The
12 three senators shall be appointed by the majority
13 leader of the senate after consultation with the
14 president of the senate and the minority leader of the
15 senate. The three representatives shall be appointed
16 by the speaker of the house of representatives after
17 consultation with the majority and minority leaders of
18 the house of representatives. Legislative members
19 shall serve in an ex officio, nonvoting capacity. A
20 legislative member is eligible for per diem and
21 expenses as provided in section 2.10.

22 5. The Iowa board shall designate a community
23 empowerment assistance team or teams of state agency
24 staff to provide technical assistance and other
25 support to community empowerment areas. The technical
26 assistance shall be available in at least three levels
27 of support as follows:

28 a. Support to areas experienced in operating an
29 innovation zone or decategorization project with an
30 extensive record of success in collaboration between
31 education, health, or human services interests.

32 b. Support to areas experienced in operating an
33 innovation zone or decategorization project.

34 c. Support to areas forming an initial community
35 empowerment area with no previous experience operating
36 an innovation zone or decategorization project.

37 6. Staffing services to the Iowa board shall be
38 provided by the state agencies which are represented
39 on the Iowa board and by other state agencies making
40 staffing available to the board.

41 7. The Iowa board may designate an advisory
42 council consisting of representatives from community
43 empowerment area boards.

44 8. The Iowa board shall elect a chairperson from
45 among the citizen board members and may select other
46 officers from among the citizen board members as
47 determined to be necessary by the board. The board
48 shall meet regularly as determined by the board, upon
49 the call of the board's chairperson, or upon the call
50 of a majority of voting members.

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1 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 71.3 IOWA EMPOWERMENT BOARD
2 DUTIES.

3 The Iowa board shall perform the following duties:

4 1. Perform duties relating to community
5 empowerment areas.

6 2. Oversee the provision of grant funding and
7 other moneys made available to community empowerment
8 areas by combining all or portions of appropriations
9 or other revenues as authorized by law.

10 3. Develop advanced community empowerment area
11 arrangements for those community empowerment areas
12 which were formed in transition from an innovation
13 zone or from a decategorization governance board or
14 which otherwise provide evidence of extensive
15 successful experience in managing services and funding
16 with high levels of community support and input.

17 4. Identify boards, commissions, committees, and
18 other bodies in state government with overlapping and
19 similar purposes which contribute to redundancy and
20 fragmentation in education, health, and human services
21 programs provided to the public. The board shall also
22 make recommendations to the governor and general
23 assembly as appropriate for increasing coordination
24 between these bodies, for eliminating bureaucratic
25 duplication, for consolidation where appropriate, and
26 for integration of functions to achieve improved
27 results.

28 5. Assist with the linkage of child welfare and
29 juvenile justice decategorization projects with
30 community empowerment areas.

31 6. Integrate the duties relating to innovation
32 zones in the place of the innovation zone board
33 created in section 8A.2, Code 1997, until the Iowa
34 board determines the innovation zones have been
35 replaced with community empowerment areas.

36 7. Coordinate and respond to any requests from a
37 community board relating to any of the following:

38 a. Waiver of existing rules, federal regulation,
39 or amendment of state law, or removal of other
40 barriers.

41 b. Pooling and redirecting of existing federal,
42 state, or other public or private funds.

43 c. Seeking of federal waivers.

44 d. Consolidating community-level committees,
45 planning groups, and other bodies with common
46 memberships formed in response to state requirements.

47 In coordinating and responding to the requests, the
48 Iowa board shall work with state agencies and submit
49 proposals to the governor and general assembly as
50 necessary to fulfill requests deemed appropriate by

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the Iowa board.

2 provide for maximum flexibility in
 3 of the designator and administration
 4 of all activities and authority of community
 5 empowerment areas.
 6 The board shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter
 7 171A for the designation, governance,
 8 and oversight of community empowerment areas
 9 under the authority of this chapter. The board
 10 shall provide for community board input in the
 11 rule-making process. The rules shall include
 12 at least the following:

13 a. Performance indicators for community
 14 empowerment areas, community boards, and
 15 provided under the auspices of the board.
 16 The performance indicators shall be developed
 17 input from community boards and shall include
 18 core indicators of performance for the
 19 grant program, as described in section 71.4
 20 b. Minimum standards to further the
 21 equal access to services subject to the
 22 community boards.

23 Sec. 5 NEW SECTION. 71.4 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT
 24 AREAS.

25 The purpose of a community empowerment area
 26 is to enable local citizens to lead collaborative
 27 efforts in education, health, and human services
 28 programs on behalf of the children, families,
 29 and other citizens residing in the area. The
 30 activities may include but are not limited to
 31 planning for and oversight and management of
 32 programs and the funding made available to the
 33 community empowerment area for such programs
 34 from state, local, and private sources. The
 35 primary focus of the purpose is to improve
 36 conditions with young children.

37 Each county and school district in the
 38 state shall have the option of participating in a
 39 community empowerment area. A community empowerment area
 40 shall be designated by using existing school district
 41 county boundaries to the extent possible. For
 42 geographic areas that are part of an innovation
 43 grant created in a decategorization project of
 44 the year 1998, the initial community empow
 45 erment area shall be the larger of the two.

46 The designation of a community empow
 47 erment area and the creation of a community empow
 48 erment area are subject to the approval of the Iowa
 49 empowerment board. Criteria used by the Iowa empow
 50 erment board in approving the designation of a commu
 51 nity empowerment area shall include:

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1 area shall include but are not limited to the
2 existence of a large enough geographic area and
3 population to efficiently and effectively administer
4 the responsibilities and authority of the community
5 empowerment area. The Iowa empowerment board shall
6 adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A providing
7 procedures for the initial designation of community
8 empowerment areas and for later changing the initially
9 designated areas.

10 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 71.5 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT
11 AREA BOARDS CREATED.

12 1. A community empowerment area shall be governed
13 by a community empowerment area board. A majority of
14 the members of a community board shall be citizens and
15 elected officials and the remaining members may be
16 employees of or paid for representing any of the
17 entities listed in this subsection. At least one
18 member shall be a service consumer or the parent of a
19 service consumer. Terms of office of community board
20 members shall be three years. The members of a
21 community empowerment area board may include one or
22 more representatives of any of the following entities:

- 23 a. A school district.
 - 24 b. A county.
 - 25 c. A local board of health.
 - 26 d. A hospital.
 - 27 e. A charitable funding group.
 - 28 f. The department of human services.
 - 29 g. A religious institution.
 - 30 h. An area education agency.
 - 31 i. Juvenile court services.
 - 32 j. An area substance abuse agency.
 - 33 k. A community action program.
 - 34 l. A city.
 - 35 m. A business organization.
 - 36 n. A labor organization.
 - 37 o. A service club.
 - 38 p. A business.
 - 39 q. Consumers.
 - 40 r. A private community-based organization.
 - 41 s. A neighborhood association.
 - 42 t. Others as determined by the community board.
- 43 2. A community board may designate representatives
44 of service providers or public agency staff to provide
45 technical assistance to the community board.
- 46 3. A community board may designate a professional
47 advisory council consisting of persons employed by or
48 otherwise paid to represent an entity listed in
49 subsection 1 or other provider of service.
- 50 4. The community board shall elect a chairperson

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1 from among the members who are citizens, elected
2 officials, or volunteers.

3 Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. 7I.6 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT
4 AREA BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY.

5 1. A community empowerment area board shall do the
6 following:

7 a. Designate a public agency of this state, as
8 defined in section 28E.2, to be the fiscal agent for
9 grant moneys and for other moneys administered by the
10 community board.

11 b. Administer community empowerment grant moneys
12 available from the state to the community board as
13 provided by law and other federal, state, local, and
14 private moneys made available to the community board.
15 Eligibility for receipt of community empowerment grant
16 moneys shall be limited to those community boards that
17 have developed an approved school ready children grant
18 plan in accordance with this chapter. A community
19 board may apply to the Iowa empowerment board to
20 receive as a community empowerment grant those moneys
21 which would otherwise only be available within the
22 geographic area through categorical funding sources or
23 programs.

24 c. If a community empowerment area includes a
25 decategorization project, coordinate planning and
26 budgeting with the decategorization governing board.
27 By mutual agreement between the community board and
28 the decategorization governance board, the community
29 board may assume the duties of the decategorization
30 governance board or the decategorization governance
31 board may continue as a committee of the community
32 board.

33 d. Assume other responsibilities established by
34 law or administrative rule.

35 2. A community board may do any of the following:

36 a. Designate one or more committees for oversight
37 of grant moneys awarded to the community empowerment
38 area.

39 b. Function as a coordinating body for services
40 offered by different entities directed to similar
41 purposes within the community empowerment area.

42 c. Develop neighborhood bodies for community-level
43 input to the community board and implementation of
44 services.

45 Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. 7I.7 SCHOOL READY CHILDREN
46 GRANT PROGRAM -- ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.

47 1. The departments of education, human services,
48 and public health shall jointly develop and promote a
49 school ready children grant program which shall
50 provide for all of the following components:

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1 a. Identify the core indicators of performance
2 that will be used to assess the effectiveness of the
3 school ready children grants, including increasing the
4 basic skill levels of students entering school,
5 increasing the health status of children, reducing the
6 incidence of child abuse and neglect, increasing the
7 access of children to an adult mentor, increasing
8 parental involvement with their children, and
9 increasing the quality and accessibility of child day
10 care.

11 b. Identify guidelines and a process to be used
12 for determining the readiness of a community
13 empowerment area for administering school ready
14 children grants.

15 c. Provide for technical assistance concerning
16 funding sources, program design, and other pertinent
17 areas.

18 2. The program developed and components identified
19 under subsection 1 are subject to approval by the Iowa
20 empowerment board. The Iowa empowerment board shall
21 provide maximum flexibility to grantees for the use of
22 the grant moneys included in a school ready children
23 grant.

24 3. A school ready children grant shall, at a
25 minimum, be used to provide the following:

26 a. Preschool services provided on a voluntary
27 basis to four-year-old children deemed at risk of not
28 succeeding in elementary school as determined by the
29 community board and specified in the grant plan
30 developed in accordance with this section.

31 b. Parent education programs promoted to parents
32 of children from birth through five years of age.
33 Parent education programs shall be offered in a
34 flexible manner to accommodate the varying schedules,
35 meeting place requirements, and other needs of working
36 parents.

37 c. A comprehensive school ready children grant
38 plan developed by a community board for providing
39 services for children from birth through five years of
40 age including but not limited to child development
41 services, child care services, children's health and
42 safety services, assessment services to identify
43 chemically exposed infants and children, and parent
44 education services. At a minimum, the plan shall do
45 all of the following:

46 (1) Describe community needs for children from
47 birth through five years of age as identified through
48 ongoing assessments.

49 (2) Describe the current and desired levels of
50 community coordination of services for children from

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1 birth through five years of age.

2 (3) Identify all federal, state, local, and
3 private funding sources available in the community
4 empowerment area that will be used to provide services
5 to children from birth through five years of age.

6 (4) Describe how funding sources will be used
7 collaboratively and the degree to which the moneys can
8 be combined to provide necessary services to children.

9 (5) Identify the results the community board
10 expects to achieve through implementation of the
11 school ready children grant program, and identify
12 community-specific quantifiable performance indicators
13 to be reported in the annual report.

14 4. The community board shall submit an annual
15 report on the effectiveness of the grant program in
16 addressing school readiness and children's health and
17 safety needs to the Iowa empowerment board and to the
18 local governing bodies. The annual report shall
19 indicate the effectiveness of the community board in
20 achieving state and locally determined goals.

21 5. a. A school ready children grant shall be
22 awarded to a community board for a three-year period,
23 with annual payments made to the community board on or
24 before October 1 of each fiscal year. The Iowa
25 empowerment board may grant an extension from the
26 award date and any application deadlines based upon
27 the award date, to allow for a later implementation
28 date in the initial year in which a community board
29 submits a comprehensive school ready grant plan to the
30 Iowa empowerment board. However, receipt of continued
31 funding is subject to submission of the required
32 annual report and the Iowa board's determination that
33 the community board is measuring, through the use of
34 performance indicators developed by the Iowa board
35 with input from community boards, progress toward and
36 is achieving the desired results identified in the
37 grant plan. If progress is not measured through the
38 use of performance indicators toward achieving the
39 identified results, the Iowa board may request a plan
40 of corrective action or may withdraw grant funding.

41 b. The Iowa empowerment board shall distribute
42 school ready children grant moneys to community boards
43 with approved comprehensive school ready children
44 grant plans based upon the degree of readiness of the
45 community empowerment area to effectively utilize the
46 moneys, with the grant moneys being adjusted for other
47 federal and state grant moneys to be received by the
48 area for services to children from birth through five
49 years of age.

50 c. A community board's degree of readiness shall

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1 be ascertained by evidence of successful collaboration
2 among public or private education, human services, or
3 health interests or a documented program design
4 evincing a strong likelihood of leading to a
5 successful collaboration between these interests.

6 Other criteria which may be used by the Iowa board to
7 ascertain degree of readiness and to determine funding
8 amounts include one or more of the following:

9 (1) Experience or other evidence of capacity to
10 successfully implement the services in the plan.

11 (2) Local funding and other resources committed to
12 implementation of the plan.

13 6. The highest priority for school ready children
14 grant funds shall be to provide preschool services on
15 a voluntary basis to four-year-old children deemed at
16 risk of not succeeding in elementary school and parent
17 education programs on a voluntary basis to parents of
18 children from birth through five years of age.

19 Remaining funds may be used to provide other services
20 to children from birth through five years of age as
21 specified in the comprehensive school ready children
22 grant plan.

23 Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. 71.8 IOWA EMPOWERMENT FUND.

24 1. An Iowa empowerment fund is created in the
25 state treasury. The moneys in the Iowa empowerment
26 fund are not subject to section 8.33 and shall not be
27 transferred, used, obligated, appropriated, or
28 otherwise encumbered except as provided by law.
29 Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest
30 or earnings on moneys deposited in the Iowa
31 empowerment fund shall be credited to the fund.

32 2. A school ready children grants account is
33 created in the Iowa empowerment fund under the
34 authority of the director of the department of
35 education. Moneys credited to the account shall be
36 distributed by the department of education in the form
37 of grants to community empowerment areas pursuant to
38 criteria established by the Iowa board in accordance
39 with law.

40 3. An early childhood programs grant account is
41 created in the Iowa empowerment fund under the
42 authority of the director of human services. Moneys
43 credited to the account shall be distributed by the
44 department of human services in the form of grants to
45 community empowerment areas pursuant to criteria
46 established by the Iowa board in accordance with law.

47 Sec. 10. Section 135.106, subsection 3, Code
48 Supplement 1997, is amended to read as follows:

49 3. It is the intent of the general assembly to
50 provide communities with the discretion and authority

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1 to redesign existing local programs and services
2 targeted at and assisting families expecting babies
3 and families with children who are newborn through
4 five years of age. The Iowa department of public
5 health, department of human services, department of
6 education, and other state agencies and programs, as
7 appropriate, shall provide technical assistance and
8 support to communities desiring to redesign their
9 local programs and shall facilitate the consolidation
10 of existing state funding appropriated and made
11 available to the community for family support
12 services. Funds which are consolidated in accordance
13 with this subsection shall be used to support the
14 redesigned service delivery system. In redesigning
15 services, communities are encouraged to implement a
16 single uniform family risk assessment mechanism and
17 shall demonstrate the potential for improved outcomes
18 for children and families. Requests by local
19 communities for the redesigning of services shall be
20 submitted to ~~and subject to joint approval of~~ the Iowa
21 department of public health, department of human
22 services, and department of education, and are subject
23 to the approval of the Iowa empowerment board in
24 consultation with the departments, based on the
25 innovation ~~zones~~ zone principles established in
26 section 8A.2, Code 1997.

27 Sec. 11. Section 232.188, subsection 7, Code 1997,
28 is amended to read as follows:

29 7. The annual child welfare services plan
30 developed by a decategorization governance board
31 pursuant to subsection 2 shall be submitted to the
32 department and the ~~statewide-decategorization-and~~
33 ~~family-preservation-committee~~ Iowa empowerment board.
34 In addition, the decategorization governance board
35 shall submit an annual progress report to the
36 department and the ~~committee~~ Iowa empowerment board
37 which summarizes the progress made toward attaining
38 the objectives contained in the plan. The progress
39 report shall serve as an opportunity for information
40 sharing and feedback.

41 Sec. 12. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.

42 1. The general assembly recognizes the significant
43 findings of brain research indicating that early
44 stimulation of the brain increases the learning
45 ability of a child. In order for children to be ready
46 for school by age five, it is the intent of the
47 general assembly that implementation of the provisions
48 of this Act will accomplish the following:

49 a. Foster collaboration among state agencies which
50 shall initially include the departments of human

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1 services, education, and public health, and allow the
2 blending of these agencies' funding and other
3 resources.

4 b. Establish community empowerment areas with
5 broad community representation with the goal of
6 providing services collaboratively to children from
7 birth through five years of age for the purpose of
8 improving the quality of these children's lives.

9 2. It is the intent of the general assembly that
10 over time community empowerment areas will be
11 developed in every part of the state. It is
12 anticipated that as local empowerment areas evolve and
13 most effectively implement the provisions of this Act
14 in their areas, the initial structure for community
15 empowerment areas provided in this Act will be revised
16 by the Iowa empowerment board and by the general
17 assembly in order to best promote collaboration among
18 state and local education, health, and human services
19 programs.

20 3. It is the intent of the general assembly that
21 the duties of child welfare and juvenile justice
22 decategorization projects and innovation zones will
23 eventually be assumed by community empowerment areas.

24 Sec. 13. IOWA EMPOWERMENT BOARD. The Iowa
25 empowerment board shall adopt rules, arrange for
26 technical assistance, provide guidance, and take other
27 actions needed to assist the designation of community
28 empowerment areas and creation of community
29 empowerment boards and to enable the community
30 empowerment area boards to submit school ready
31 children grant plans in a timely manner for the
32 initial grants to be awarded and grant moneys to be
33 paid by October 1, 1998, in accordance with this Act.
34 The Iowa board shall submit to the governor and the
35 general assembly a proposed funding formula for
36 distribution of school ready children grant moneys as
37 necessary for statewide implementation of the grant
38 program for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999,
39 and subsequent fiscal years.

40 Sec. 14. INITIAL COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREAS AND
41 BOARDS.

42 1. Notwithstanding section 71.5, as enacted by
43 this Act, providing for the creation of community
44 empowerment area boards, for an area in which the
45 initial community empowerment area is an innovation
46 zone, one or more school districts, or a
47 decategorization project, the initial community
48 empowerment board shall be the innovation zone board,
49 representatives of the school board or boards, or the
50 decategorization governing board, as determined to be

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1 appropriate by the Iowa empowerment board. In
2 addition to any members of the innovation zone board,
3 representatives of the school board or boards, or
4 decategorization governance board, the initial
5 community empowerment board shall include at a
6 minimum, representatives of school districts, county
7 boards of supervisors, cities, juvenile court
8 services, public health and human services
9 administrators in the community empowerment area, and
10 parents of children living in the area. If the
11 composition of the initial board does not comply with
12 the composition requirements of section 7I.5, the
13 board shall comply with the composition requirements
14 on or before June 30, 2000.

15 2. For an area which is not included in an
16 innovation zone or a decategorization project or for
17 an area desiring to be included in a different zone or
18 project, the area may by mutual agreement be included
19 in a community empowerment area created from an
20 innovation zone or a decategorization project.
21 Otherwise, the area shall comply with requirements for
22 designation of a community empowerment area adopted
23 for this purpose by the Iowa empowerment board.

24 Sec. 15. TRANSITION BOARD. For the period
25 beginning on the effective date of this Act and ending
26 December 1, 1998, when the governor shall have
27 completed the appointments to the Iowa empowerment
28 board, the duties of the Iowa empowerment board under
29 section 7I.3, as enacted by this Act, shall be
30 performed by a transition board consisting of the
31 directors of the departments of human services,
32 education, and public health, citizen members of the
33 innovation zone board created in section 8A.2, Code
34 1997, and the six ex officio, nonvoting legislative
35 members of the board.

36 Sec. 16. EMERGENCY RULES. The transition Iowa
37 empowerment board, as established by this Act, may
38 adopt emergency rules under section 17A.4, subsection
39 2, and section 17A.5, subsection 2, paragraph "b", to
40 implement the provisions of this Act and the rules
41 shall be effective immediately upon filing unless a
42 later date is specified in the rules. Any rules
43 adopted in accordance with this section shall also be
44 published as a notice of intended action as provided
45 in section 17A.4.

46 Sec. 17. FUNDING AUTHORIZATION. For the fiscal
47 year beginning July 1, 1998, and ending June 30, 1999,
48 the Iowa empowerment board may determine amounts of
49 appropriations and categorical program funding for the
50 programs listed in this section which can be

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1 attributed to community empowerment areas and may
2 recommend that the appropriate department reallocate
3 the attributable portions to the community empowerment
4 areas which have applied for and are determined to be
5 eligible to receive the funding in the form of a
6 community empowerment grant. Eligibility shall be
7 limited to those community empowerment areas
8 determined by the Iowa empowerment board under section
9 7I.3, as enacted by this Act, to be eligible for an
10 advanced community empowerment area arrangement.
11 Subject to any federal limitations, the programs for
12 which funding may be reallocated under this section
13 are as follows:

- 14 1. Child day care.
- 15 2. At-risk programs for preschool children.
- 16 3. Head start programs.
- 17 4. Parent education programs.
- 18 5. Children's health programs.
- 19 6. Substance abuse assessment and referral.

20 Sec. 18. INITIAL APPOINTMENTS. The governor shall
21 make the initial citizen appointments to the Iowa
22 empowerment board created in section 7I.2, as enacted
23 in this Act, as follows:

- 24 1. Two members to a one-year term.
- 25 2. Three members to a two-year term.
- 26 3. Three members to a three-year term.

27 Sec. 19. Sections 8A.2 and 217.9A, Code 1997, are
28 repealed effective June 30, 1998.

29 Sec. 20. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed
30 of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment."
31 2. Title page, by striking lines 1 through 4 and
32 inserting the following: "An Act creating and
33 relating to an Iowa empowerment board, community
34 empowerment areas, and community empowerment area
35 boards, and providing an effective date."

RECEIVED FROM THE HOUSE

S-5439 FILED MARCH 31, 1998

Senate Concurred
4-14-98 (p.1248)

SENATE FILE 2406

S-5670

1 Amend the House amendment, S-5439, to Senate File
2 2406, as amended, passed, and reprinted by the Senate,
3 as follows:

4 1. Page 1, by striking lines 5 through 8 and
5 inserting the following:

6 "Section 1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Act is
7 to create a partnership between communities and state
8 government by gradually implementing a statewide
9 system of community empowerment areas. An important
10 initial emphasis of the community empowerment areas is
11 to improve the well-being of families with young
12 children. An additional emphasis".

13 2. Page 4, by striking lines 41 through 45 and
14 inserting the following: "county boundaries to the
15 extent possible."

16 3. Page 5, by inserting after line 41 the
17 following:

18 " . A child day care resource and referral
19 service.

20 " . A library."

21 4. Page 7, line 3, by inserting after the word
22 "including" the following: "encouraging early
23 intellectual stimulation of very young children,".

24 5. Page 7, by striking line 27 and inserting the
25 following: "basis to children deemed at risk of not".

26 6. Page 7, line 31, by inserting after the word
27 "Parent" the following: "support and".

28 7. Page 7, line 33, by inserting after the word
29 "Parent" the following: "support and".

30 8. Page 7, line 41, by striking the words "care
31 services" and inserting the following: "day care
32 services, training child day care providers to
33 encourage early intellectual stimulation of very young
34 children,".

35 9. Page 7, line 43, by inserting after the word
36 "parent" the following: "support and".

37 10. Page 8, line 1, by inserting after word "age"
38 the following: ", including the involvement and
39 specific responsibilities of all related organizations
40 and entities".

41 11. Page 8, lines 23 and 24, by striking the
42 words "on or before October 1 of each fiscal year".

43 12. Page 9, by inserting after line 12 the
44 following:

45 "(3) Adequacy of plans for commitment of local
46 funding and other resources for implementation of the
47 plan.

48 d. The Iowa board's provisions for distribution of
49 school ready grant moneys shall take into account
50 contingencies for possible increases and decreases in

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1 the provision of state and local funding in future
2 fiscal years which may be used for purposes of school
3 ready children grants and for early childhood programs
4 grants and for differences in local capacity for
5 program implementation and provision of local funding.
6 In developing these provisions, the Iowa board shall
7 consider equity concerns; options for making capacity
8 adjustments by restricting grant amounts based on
9 service population size groupings to accommodate
10 small, medium, and large population groupings; and
11 options for making adjustments to accommodate varying
12 amounts of time and assistance needed for
13 implementation, such as extending the grant period to
14 more than one year."

15 13. Page 9, by striking lines 13 and 14 and
16 inserting the following:

17 "6. The priorities for school ready children grant
18 funds shall include providing preschool services on".

19 14. Page 9, line 15, by striking the words "four-
20 year-old".

21 15. Page 9, line 16, by striking the words "and
22 parent" and inserting the following: ", training
23 child day care providers and others to encourage early
24 intellectual stimulation of very young children, and
25 offering parent support and".

26 16. Page 9, line 19, by striking the words
27 "Remaining funds" and inserting the following: "The
28 grant funds also".

29 17. Page 9, line 46, by inserting after the word
30 "law." the following: "The criteria shall include but
31 are not limited to a requirement that a community
32 empowerment area must be eligible to receive a school
33 ready children grant in order to receive an early
34 childhood programs grant."

35 18. Page 10, lines 43 and 44, by striking the
36 words "early stimulation of the brain" and inserting
37 the following: "early intellectual stimulation at a
38 very young age".

39 19. Page 11, by striking line 33 and inserting
40 the following: "paid. For the initial grants, plans
41 shall be submitted by September 1, 1998, or by January
42 1, 1999, in accordance with criteria established by
43 the board."

44 20. Page 12, line 10, by inserting after the word
45 "area." the following: "For an area which does not
46 encompass an innovation zone or decategorization
47 project, the chairperson of the county board of
48 supervisors may work with the local school district or
49 districts in initiating a process to designate an
50 initial community empowerment area and board."

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1 21. Page 12, line 14, by striking the figure
2 "2000" and inserting the following: "1999".
3 22. Page 12, by inserting after line 23 the
4 following:
5 "3. An area designated as an innovation zone in
6 accordance with section 8A.2, Code 1997, as of June
7 30, 1998, may continue to develop the area's plans to
8 achieve the results identified in the area's
9 innovation zone application. An innovation zone
10 transitioning to become a designated community
11 empowerment area shall continue to receive technical
12 assistance and guidance from the appropriate state
13 agencies. A transitioning innovation zone may
14 continue to pursue waivers and the reallocation of
15 funds to achieve the identified results. A
16 transitioning innovation zone may amend the zone's
17 previously approved plan to include the provisions
18 identified in section 7I.7, as enacted by this Act, as
19 necessary to be eligible for receipt of a school ready
20 children grant."
21 23. By renumbering as necessary.

By NANCY BOETTGER
JOHN REDWINE
ELAINE SZYMONIAK
MERLIN E. BARTZ
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DICK L. DEARDEN
ROBERT E. DVORSKY

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MAGGIE TINSMAN
LYLE E. ZIEMAN

S-5670 FILED APRIL 14, 1998
ADOPTED

(P.1248)

SENATE AMENDMENT TO HOUSE AMENDMENT TO S. F. 2406

H-9179

1 Amend the House amendment, S-5439, to Senate File
2 2406, as amended, passed, and reprinted by the Senate,
3 as follows:

4 1. Page 1, by striking lines 5 through 8 and
5 inserting the following:

6 "Section 1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Act is
7 to create a partnership between communities and state
8 government by gradually implementing a statewide
9 system of community empowerment areas. An important
10 initial emphasis of the community empowerment areas is
11 to improve the well-being of families with young
12 children. An additional emphasis".

13 2. Page 4, by striking lines 41 through 45 and
14 inserting the following: "county boundaries to the
15 extent possible."

16 3. Page 5, by inserting after line 41 the
17 following:

18 " . A child day care resource and referral
19 service.

20 " . A library."

21 4. Page 7, line 3, by inserting after the word
22 "including" the following: "encouraging early
23 intellectual stimulation of very young children,".

24 5. Page 7, by striking line 27 and inserting the
25 following: "basis to children deemed at risk of not".

26 6. Page 7, line 31, by inserting after the word
27 "Parent" the following: "support and".

28 7. Page 7, line 33, by inserting after the word
29 "Parent" the following: "support and".

30 8. Page 7, line 41, by striking the words "care
31 services" and inserting the following: "day care
32 services, training child day care providers to
33 encourage early intellectual stimulation of very young
34 children,".

35 9. Page 7, line 43, by inserting after the word
36 "parent" the following: "support and".

37 10. Page 8, line 1, by inserting after word "age"
38 the following: ", including the involvement and
39 specific responsibilities of all related organizations
40 and entities".

41 11. Page 8, lines 23 and 24, by striking the
42 words "on or before October 1 of each fiscal year".

43 12. Page 9, by inserting after line 12 the
44 following:

45 "(3) Adequacy of plans for commitment of local
46 funding and other resources for implementation of the
47 plan.

48 d. The Iowa board's provisions for distribution of
49 school ready grant moneys shall take into account
50 contingencies for possible increases and decreases in

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1 the provision of state and local funding in future
2 fiscal years which may be used for purposes of school
3 ready children grants and for early childhood programs
4 grants and for differences in local capacity for
5 program implementation and provision of local funding.
6 In developing these provisions, the Iowa board shall
7 consider equity concerns; options for making capacity
8 adjustments by restricting grant amounts based on
9 service population size groupings to accommodate
10 small, medium, and large population groupings; and
11 options for making adjustments to accommodate varying
12 amounts of time and assistance needed for
13 implementation, such as extending the grant period to
14 more than one year."

15 13. Page 9, by striking lines 13 and 14 and
16 inserting the following:

17 "6. The priorities for school ready children grant
18 funds shall include providing preschool services on".

19 14. Page 9, line 15, by striking the words "four-
20 year-old".

21 15. Page 9, line 16, by striking the words "and
22 parent" and inserting the following: ", training
23 child day care providers and others to encourage early
24 intellectual stimulation of very young children, and
25 offering parent support and".

26 16. Page 9, line 19, by striking the words
27 "Remaining funds" and inserting the following: "The
28 grant funds also".

29 17. Page 9, line 46, by inserting after the word
30 "law." the following: "The criteria shall include but
31 are not limited to a requirement that a community
32 empowerment area must be eligible to receive a school
33 ready children grant in order to receive an early
34 childhood programs grant."

35 18. Page 10, lines 43 and 44, by striking the
36 words "early stimulation of the brain" and inserting
37 the following: "early intellectual stimulation at a
38 very young age".

39 19. Page 11, by striking line 33 and inserting
40 the following: "paid. For the initial grants, plans
41 shall be submitted by September 1, 1998, or by January
42 1, 1999, in accordance with criteria established by
43 the board."

44 20. Page 12, line 10, by inserting after the word
45 "area." the following: "For an area which does not
46 encompass an innovation zone or decategorization
47 project, the chairperson of the county board of
48 supervisors may work with the local school district or
49 districts in initiating a process to designate an
50 initial community empowerment area and board."

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Page 3

1 21. Page 12, line 14, by striking the figure
2 "2000" and inserting the following: "1999".
3 22. Page 12, by inserting after line 23 the
4 following:
5 "3. An area designated as an innovation zone in
6 accordance with section 8A.2, Code 1997, as of June
7 30, 1998, may continue to develop the area's plans to
8 achieve the results identified in the area's
9 innovation zone application. An innovation zone
10 transitioning to become a designated community
11 empowerment area shall continue to receive technical
12 assistance and guidance from the appropriate state
13 agencies. A transitioning innovation zone may
14 continue to pursue waivers and the reallocation of
15 funds to achieve the identified results. A
16 transitioning innovation zone may amend the zone's
17 previously approved plan to include the provisions
18 identified in section 7I.7, as enacted by this Act, as
19 necessary to be eligible for receipt of a school ready
20 children grant."
21 23. By renumbering as necessary.

RECEIVED FROM THE SENATE

E-9179 FILED APRIL 15, 1998
HOUSE CONCURRED

(P. 1656)

Boettger
Kramer
Redwine
Tinsman
Szymoniak
Neuhauser
Kibbie

SSB 2200
Education introduced By
(SF) HF 2406

SENATE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION BILL BY
CHAIRPERSON REDFERN)

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a school ready children grant program to be
2 administered by community empowerment area boards and the Iowa
3 empowerment board, making an appropriation, and providing an
4 effective date.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 7I.1 DEFINITIONS.

2 For the purposes of this chapter:

3 1. "Community empowerment area" means a geographic area
4 designated in accordance with this chapter.

5 2. "Community empowerment area board" or "community board"
6 means the board for a community empowerment area created in
7 accordance with this chapter.

8 3. "Iowa empowerment board" means the board or other body
9 designated in law by the general assembly to oversee the
10 formation of community empowerment areas and to administer the
11 school ready children grant program.

12 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 7I.2 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREAS.

13 1. The purpose of a community empowerment area is to
14 enable local citizens to collaboratively manage funds on
15 behalf of the children, families, and other citizens residing
16 in the area.

17 2. A community empowerment area shall be formed by using
18 existing school district and county boundaries to the extent
19 possible. Each county and school district in the state shall
20 have the option of participating in a community empowerment
21 area.

22 3. The formation of a community empowerment area and a
23 community empowerment area board is subject to the approval of
24 the Iowa empowerment board. The Iowa empowerment board shall
25 adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A providing for the initial
26 identification of community empowerment areas and procedures
27 for later changing the initially identified areas.

28 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 7I.3 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREA
29 BOARDS CREATED.

30 1. A community empowerment area shall be governed by a
31 community empowerment area board. The composition of a
32 community board shall be two-thirds members who are citizens,
33 elected officials, or volunteers and one-third members who are
34 employees of or are paid for representing any of the entities
35 listed in this subsection. The members of a community

1 empowerment area board shall include one or more
2 representatives of any of the following:

- 3 a. A school district.
- 4 b. A county.
- 5 c. A local board of health.
- 6 d. A hospital.
- 7 e. A charitable funding group.
- 8 f. The department of human services.
- 9 g. A religious institution.
- 10 h. An area education agency.
- 11 i. Juvenile court services.
- 12 j. An area substance abuse agency.
- 13 k. A community action program.

14 2. A community board may designate representatives of
15 service providers or public agency staff to provide technical
16 assistance to the community board.

17 3. A community board may designate a professional advisory
18 council consisting of persons employed by or otherwise paid to
19 represent an entity listed in subsection 1 or other provider
20 of service.

21 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 7I.4 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREA
22 BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY.

23 1. A community empowerment area board shall do the
24 following:

25 a. Designate a public agency of this state, as defined in
26 section 28E.2, to be the fiscal agent for grant moneys and for
27 other moneys administered by the community board.

28 b. Administer community empowerment block grant moneys
29 available to the community board. Eligibility for these block
30 grant moneys shall be limited to those community boards which
31 have developed an approved school ready children grant plan in
32 accordance with this chapter. Community empowerment block
33 grant moneys may include but are not limited to moneys
34 relating to any of the following:

- 35 (1) Child day care services.

- 1 (2) At-risk programs for preschool children.
- 2 (3) Head start programs.
- 3 (4) Parent education programs.
- 4 (5) Children's health programs.
- 5 (6) The family investment program, including the PROMISE
- 6 JOBS program.
- 7 (7) Substance abuse assessment and referral.
- 8 (8) Department of human services' field and program staff
- 9 supervision and oversight.
- 10 (9) Child welfare services, which may include group foster
- 11 care, rehabilitative treatment services, juvenile court
- 12 services, and other community-based juvenile justice services.
- 13 (10) Other moneys authorized in law for block grant
- 14 funding.
- 15 c. Assume other responsibilities established in law or
- 16 administrative rule.
- 17 2. A community board may do any of the following:
- 18 a. Designate one or more committees for oversight of grant
- 19 moneys awarded to the community empowerment area.
- 20 b. Function as a coordinating body for services directed
- 21 to similar populations by the jurisdictions within the
- 22 community empowerment area.
- 23 Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 71.5 SCHOOL READY CHILDREN GRANT
- 24 PROGRAM -- ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.
- 25 1. The departments of education, human services, and
- 26 public health shall jointly develop a school ready children
- 27 grant program which shall provide for all of the following
- 28 components:
- 29 a. Identify the core indicators of performance that will
- 30 be used to assess the effectiveness of the school ready
- 31 children grants, including increasing the basic skill levels
- 32 of students entering school, increasing health status of
- 33 children, reducing the incidence of child abuse and neglect,
- 34 increasing the access of children to an adult mentor,
- 35 increasing parental involvement with their children, and

1 increasing the quality and accessibility of child day care.
 2 b. Identify guidelines and a process to be used for
 3 determining the readiness of a community empowerment area for
 4 administering school ready children grants.

5 c. Provide for technical assistance concerning funding
 6 sources, program design, and other pertinent areas.

7 2. The program developed and components identified under
 8 subsection 1 are subject to approval by the Iowa empowerment
 9 board. The Iowa empowerment board shall provide maximum
 10 flexibility to grantees for the use of the grant moneys
 11 included in a school ready children grant.

12 3. A school ready children grant shall, at a minimum, be
 13 used to provide the following:

14 a. Preschool services provided on a voluntary basis to
 15 children deemed at risk of not succeeding in elementary school
 16 as determined by the community board and specified in the
 17 grant plan developed in accordance with this section.

18 b. Parent education programs promoted to parents of
 19 children from birth through five years of age. Parent
 20 education programs shall be offered in a flexible manner to
 21 accommodate the varying schedules, meeting place requirements,
 22 and other needs of working families.

23 c. A comprehensive school ready children grant plan
 24 developed by a community board for providing children's
 25 services for children from birth through five years of age
 26 including but not limited to child development, child care,
 27 children's health and safety, assessment provisions to
 28 identify chemically exposed infants and children, and parent
 29 education services. At a minimum, the plan shall do all of
 30 the following:

31 (1) Describe community needs for children from birth
 32 through five years of age as identified through ongoing
 33 assessments.

34 (2) Describe the current and desired levels of community
 35 coordination of services for children from birth through five

1 years of age.

2 (3) Identify all federal, state, local, and private
3 funding sources available in the community empowerment area
4 that will be used to provide services to children from birth
5 through five years of age.

6 (4) Describe how the funding source will be used
7 collaboratively and the degree to which the moneys can be
8 combined to provide the necessary services.

9 (5) Identify the results the community board expects to
10 achieve through implementation of the school ready children
11 grant program, and identify community-specific quantifiable
12 performance indicators that can be measured and reported in
13 the annual report.

14 5. An annual report on the effectiveness of the grant
15 program in addressing school readiness and children's health
16 and safety needs shall be submitted by the community board to
17 the Iowa empowerment board and to the local governing bodies.
18 The annual report shall indicate the effectiveness of the
19 community board in achieving state and locally determined
20 goals.

21 6. A school ready children grant to a community board
22 shall be awarded for a five-year period, with annual payments
23 made to the community board on or before October 1 of each
24 fiscal year. However, receipt of continued funding is subject
25 to submission of the required annual report.

26 The Iowa empowerment board shall distribute school ready
27 children grant moneys to community boards with approved
28 comprehensive school ready children grant plans in accordance
29 with the following formula:

30 a. An at-risk percentage shall be identified for each
31 school district in the state. The at-risk percentage shall be
32 the school district's proportion of the children who are
33 enrolled in the school district first through sixth grade
34 qualifying for free or reduced price meals for the school year
35 preceding the fiscal year in which the moneys are to be paid

1 compared to all children in the state who are enrolled in
2 first through sixth grade qualifying for free or reduced price
3 meals for the same school year.

4 b. A community empowerment area at-risk percentage shall
5 be determined by adding the at-risk percentages for each
6 school district in the community empowerment area.

7 c. The maximum annual grant amount for a community
8 empowerment area is the area's at-risk percentage of the
9 amount appropriated for school ready children grants for a
10 fiscal year.

11 Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 71.6 IOWA EMPOWERMENT FUND.

12 1. An Iowa empowerment fund is created in the state
13 treasury under the authority of the Iowa empowerment board.
14 The moneys in the Iowa empowerment fund are not subject to
15 section 8.33 and shall not be transferred, used, obligated,
16 appropriated, or otherwise encumbered except as provided by
17 law. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or
18 earnings on moneys deposited in the Iowa empowerment fund
19 shall be credited to the fund. Moneys in the Iowa empowerment
20 fund may be used for cash flow purposes provided that any
21 moneys so allocated are returned to the fund by the end of
22 each fiscal year. However, the fund shall be considered a
23 special account for the purposes of section 8.53.

24 2. A school ready children grants account is created in
25 the Iowa empowerment fund and moneys credited to the account
26 shall be distributed in the form of grants to community
27 empowerment areas as provided in law.

28 Sec. 7. SCHOOL READY CHILDREN GRANTS. There is
29 appropriated from the general fund of the state to the Iowa
30 empowerment fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1998,
31 and ending June 30, 1999, the following amount, or so much
32 thereof as is necessary, to be used for the purpose
33 designated:

34 For deposit to the credit of the school ready children
35 grants account:

1 \$ 5,200,000

2 Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of
3 immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

4 EXPLANATION

5 This bill establishes a school ready children grant program
6 to be administered by community empowerment area boards and
7 the Iowa empowerment board.

8 New Code section 7I.1 includes definitions of community
9 empowerment area, community empowerment area board, and Iowa
10 empowerment board.

11 New Code section 7I.2 provides requirements for designating
12 community empowerment areas.

13 New Code section 7I.3 provides requirements for counties
14 and school districts to designate community empowerment area
15 boards.

16 New Code section 7I.4 outlines the responsibilities and
17 authority of a community empowerment area board.

18 New Code section 7I.5 creates the school ready grant
19 program.

20 The departments of education, human services, and public
21 health must jointly determine the core indicators of
22 performance that will be used to assess the effectiveness of
23 the grants, and establish guidelines and a process to be used
24 in selecting community empowerment areas for grants. The bill
25 directs the Iowa empowerment board to adopt rules to
26 administer the program.

27 The bill requires grantees to develop a plan and submit an
28 annual report, and the bill lists the programs and services a
29 grantee must provide.

30 A grant may be awarded for a five-year period contingent
31 upon a community empowerment area board submitting an annual
32 report. A funding formula is provided for determining the
33 distribution of grant moneys to community empowerment areas
34 for each fiscal year.

35 New Code section 7I.6 creates an Iowa empowerment fund.

1 Moneys deposited into the fund are not subject to reversion,
 2 transfer, or appropriation except as provided by law.
 3 Interest or earnings on moneys in the fund are to be credited
 4 to the fund. A school ready children grants account is
 5 created in the fund to be used for distribution of grants to
 6 community empowerment areas. A general fund appropriation is
 7 made to the account.

8 The bill takes effect upon enactment.

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SENATE FILE 2406

AN ACT

CREATING AND RELATING TO AN IOWA EMPOWERMENT BOARD,
COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREAS, AND COMMUNITY EMPOWER-
MENT AREA BOARDS, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this Act is to create a partnership between communities and state government by gradually implementing a statewide system of community empowerment areas. An important initial emphasis of the community empowerment areas is to improve the well-being of families with young children. An additional emphasis is to reduce duplicative bureaucratic requirements that are barriers to community efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local education, health, and human services programs.

Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 71.1 DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Community empowerment area" means a geographic area designated in accordance with this chapter.
2. "Community empowerment area board" or "community board" means the board for a community empowerment area created in accordance with this chapter.
3. "Decategorization project" means a decategorization of child welfare and juvenile justice funding project operated under section 232.188.

4. "Innovation zone" means a local jurisdiction implementing an innovation zone plan in accordance with section 8A.2, Code 1997.

5. "Iowa empowerment board" or "Iowa board" means the Iowa empowerment board created in this chapter.

Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 71.2 IOWA EMPOWERMENT BOARD CREATED.

1. An Iowa empowerment board is created to oversee state and community efforts involving community empowerment areas, including strategic planning, funding identification, and guidance, and to promote collaboration among state and local education, health, and human services programs.

2. The Iowa board shall consist of eleven voting members with eight citizen members and three state agency members. The three state agency members shall be the directors of the following departments: education, human services, and public health. The citizen members shall be appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the senate. The appointments of citizen members shall be made in a manner so that all of the state's congressional districts are represented along with the ethnic, cultural, social, and economic diversity of the state. In making appointments, preference shall be given to citizens participating on a community empowerment area board. At least one of the citizen members shall be a service consumer or the parent of a service consumer. Terms of office of citizen members are three years.

3. Citizen members shall be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in performance of their duties. Members shall be paid a per diem as specified in section 7E.6.

4. In addition to the eleven voting members, the Iowa board shall include six members of the general assembly with not more than two members from each chamber being from the same political party. The three senators shall be appointed by the majority leader of the senate after consultation with the president of the senate and the minority leader of the senate. The three representatives shall be appointed by the

speaker of the house of representatives after consultation with the majority and minority leaders of the house of representatives. Legislative members shall serve in an ex officio, nonvoting capacity. A legislative member is eligible for per diem and expenses as provided in section 2.10.

5. The Iowa board shall designate a community empowerment assistance team or teams of state agency staff to provide technical assistance and other support to community empowerment areas. The technical assistance shall be available in at least three levels of support as follows:

a. Support to areas experienced in operating an innovation zone or decategorization project with an extensive record of success in collaboration between education, health, or human services interests.

b. Support to areas experienced in operating an innovation zone or decategorization project.

c. Support to areas forming an initial community empowerment area with no previous experience operating an innovation zone or decategorization project.

6. Staffing services to the Iowa board shall be provided by the state agencies which are represented on the Iowa board and by other state agencies making staffing available to the board.

7. The Iowa board may designate an advisory council consisting of representatives from community empowerment area boards.

8. The Iowa board shall elect a chairperson from among the citizen board members and may select other officers from among the citizen board members as determined to be necessary by the board. The board shall meet regularly as determined by the board, upon the call of the board's chairperson, or upon the call of a majority of voting members.

Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. 71.3 IOWA EMPOWERMENT BOARD DUTIES. The Iowa board shall perform the following duties:

1. Perform duties relating to community empowerment areas.

2. Oversee the provision of grant funding and other moneys made available to community empowerment areas by combining all or portions of appropriations or other revenues as authorized by law.

3. Develop advanced community empowerment area arrangements for those community empowerment areas which were formed in transition from an innovation zone or from a decategorization governance board or which otherwise provide evidence of extensive successful experience in managing services and funding with high levels of community support and input.

4. Identify boards, commissions, committees, and other bodies in state government with overlapping and similar purposes which contribute to redundancy and fragmentation in education, health, and human services programs provided to the public. The board shall also make recommendations to the governor and general assembly as appropriate for increasing coordination between these bodies, for eliminating bureaucratic duplication, for consolidation where appropriate, and for integration of functions to achieve improved results.

5. Assist with the linkage of child welfare and juvenile justice decategorization projects with community empowerment areas.

6. Integrate the duties relating to innovation zones in the place of the innovation zone board created in section 8A.2, Code 1997, until the Iowa board determines the innovation zones have been replaced with community empowerment areas.

7. Coordinate and respond to any requests from a community board relating to any of the following:

a. Waiver of existing rules, federal regulation, or amendment of state law, or removal of other barriers.

b. Pooling and redirecting of existing federal, state, or other public or private funds.

c. Seeking of federal waivers.

d. Consolidating community-level committees, planning groups, and other bodies with common memberships formed in response to state requirements.

In coordinating and responding to the requests, the Iowa board shall work with state agencies and submit proposals to the governor and general assembly as necessary to fulfill requests deemed appropriate by the Iowa board.

8. Provide for maximum flexibility and creativity in the designation and administration of the responsibilities and authority of community empowerment areas.

9. Adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A as necessary for the designation, governance, and oversight of community empowerment areas and the administration of this chapter. The Iowa board shall provide for community board input in the rules adoption process. The rules shall include but are not limited to the following:

a. Performance indicators for community empowerment areas, community boards, and the services provided under the auspices of the community boards. The performance indicators shall be developed with input from community boards and shall build upon the core indicators of performance for the school ready grant program, as described in section 71.7.

b. Minimum standards to further the provision of equal access to services subject to the authority of community boards.

Sec. 5. NEW SECTION. 71.4 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREAS.

1. The purpose of a community empowerment area is to enable local citizens to lead collaborative efforts involving education, health, and human services programs on behalf of the children, families, and other citizens residing in the area. Leadership functions may include but are not limited to strategic planning for and oversight and managing of such programs and the funding made available to the community empowerment area for such programs from federal, state, local, and private sources. The initial focus of the purpose is to improve results for families with young children.

2. Each county and school district in the state shall have the option of participating in a community empowerment area. A community empowerment area shall be designated by using existing school district and county boundaries to the extent possible.

3. The designation of a community empowerment area and the creation of a community empowerment area board are subject to the approval of the Iowa empowerment board. Criteria used by the Iowa empowerment board in approving the designation of a community empowerment area shall include but are not limited to the existence of a large enough geographic area and population to efficiently and effectively administer the responsibilities and authority of the community empowerment area. The Iowa empowerment board shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A providing procedures for the initial designation of community empowerment areas and for later changing the initially designated areas.

Sec. 6. NEW SECTION. 71.5 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREA BOARDS CREATED.

1. A community empowerment area shall be governed by a community empowerment area board. A majority of the members of a community board shall be citizens and elected officials and the remaining members may be employees of or paid for representing any of the entities listed in this subsection. At least one member shall be a service consumer or the parent of a service consumer. Terms of office of community board members shall be three years. The members of a community empowerment area board may include one or more representatives of any of the following entities:

- a. A school district.
- b. A county.
- c. A local board of health.
- d. A hospital.
- e. A charitable funding group.
- f. The department of human services.
- g. A religious institution.

- h. An area education agency.
 - i. Juvenile court services.
 - j. An area substance abuse agency.
 - k. A community action program.
 - l. A city.
 - m. A business organization.
 - n. A labor organization.
 - o. A service club.
 - p. A business.
 - q. Consumers.
 - r. A private community-based organization.
 - s. A neighborhood association.
 - t. A child day care resource and referral service.
 - u. A library.
 - v. Others as determined by the community board.
2. A community board may designate representatives of service providers or public agency staff to provide technical assistance to the community board.
3. A community board may designate a professional advisory council consisting of persons employed by or otherwise paid to represent an entity listed in subsection 1 or other provider of service.
4. The community board shall elect a chairperson from among the members who are citizens, elected officials, or volunteers.

Sec. 7. NEW SECTION. 7I.6 COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREA BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY.

1. A community empowerment area board shall do the following:
- a. Designate a public agency of this state, as defined in section 28E.2, to be the fiscal agent for grant moneys and for other moneys administered by the community board.
 - b. Administer community empowerment grant moneys available from the state to the community board as provided by law and other federal, state, local, and private moneys made available to the community board. Eligibility for receipt of community

empowerment grant moneys shall be limited to those community boards that have developed an approved school ready children grant plan in accordance with this chapter. A community board may apply to the Iowa empowerment board to receive as a community empowerment grant those moneys which would otherwise only be available within the geographic area through categorical funding sources or programs.

c. If a community empowerment area includes a decategorization project, coordinate planning and budgeting with the decategorization governing board. By mutual agreement between the community board and the decategorization governance board, the community board may assume the duties of the decategorization governance board or the decategorization governance board may continue as a committee of the community board.

d. Assume other responsibilities established by law or administrative rule.

2. A community board may do any of the following:

- a. Designate one or more committees for oversight of grant moneys awarded to the community empowerment area.
- b. Function as a coordinating body for services offered by different entities directed to similar purposes within the community empowerment area.
- c. Develop neighborhood bodies for community-level input to the community board and implementation of services.

Sec. 8. NEW SECTION. 7I.7 SCHOOL READY CHILDREN GRANT PROGRAM -- ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.

1. The departments of education, human services, and public health shall jointly develop and promote a school ready children grant program which shall provide for all of the following components:

- a. Identify the core indicators of performance that will be used to assess the effectiveness of the school ready children grants, including encouraging early intellectual stimulation of very young children, increasing the basic skill levels of students entering school, increasing the health

status of children, reducing the incidence of child abuse and neglect, increasing the access of children to an adult mentor, increasing parental involvement with their children, and increasing the quality and accessibility of child day care.

b. Identify guidelines and a process to be used for determining the readiness of a community empowerment area for administering school ready children grants.

c. Provide for technical assistance concerning funding sources, program design, and other pertinent areas.

2. The program developed and components identified under subsection 1 are subject to approval by the Iowa empowerment board. The Iowa empowerment board shall provide maximum flexibility to grantees for the use of the grant moneys included in a school ready children grant.

3. A school ready children grant shall, at a minimum, be used to provide the following:

a. Preschool services provided on a voluntary basis to children deemed at risk of not succeeding in elementary school as determined by the community board and specified in the grant plan developed in accordance with this section.

b. Parent support and education programs promoted to parents of children from birth through five years of age. Parent support and education programs shall be offered in a flexible manner to accommodate the varying schedules, meeting place requirements, and other needs of working parents.

c. A comprehensive school ready children grant plan developed by a community board for providing services for children from birth through five years of age including but not limited to child development services, child day care services, training child day care providers to encourage early intellectual stimulation of very young children, children's health and safety services, assessment services to identify chemically exposed infants and children, and parent support and education services. At a minimum, the plan shall do all of the following:

(1) Describe community needs for children from birth through five years of age as identified through ongoing assessments.

(2) Describe the current and desired levels of community coordination of services for children from birth through five years of age, including the involvement and specific responsibilities of all related organizations and entities.

(3) Identify all federal, state, local, and private funding sources available in the community empowerment area that will be used to provide services to children from birth through five years of age.

(4) Describe how funding sources will be used collaboratively and the degree to which the moneys can be combined to provide necessary services to children.

(5) Identify the results the community board expects to achieve through implementation of the school ready children grant program, and identify community-specific quantifiable performance indicators to be reported in the annual report.

4. The community board shall submit an annual report on the effectiveness of the grant program in addressing school readiness and children's health and safety needs to the Iowa empowerment board and to the local governing bodies. The annual report shall indicate the effectiveness of the community board in achieving state and locally determined goals.

5. a. A school ready children grant shall be awarded to a community board for a three-year period, with annual payments made to the community board. The Iowa empowerment board may grant an extension from the award date and any application deadlines based upon the award date, to allow for a later implementation date in the initial year in which a community board submits a comprehensive school ready grant plan to the Iowa empowerment board. However, receipt of continued funding is subject to submission of the required annual report and the Iowa board's determination that the community board is measuring, through the use of performance indicators developed

by the Iowa board with input from community boards, progress toward and is achieving the desired results identified in the grant plan. If progress is not measured through the use of performance indicators toward achieving the identified results, the Iowa board may request a plan of corrective action or may withdraw grant funding.

b. The Iowa empowerment board shall distribute school ready children grant moneys to community boards with approved comprehensive school ready children grant plans based upon the degree of readiness of the community empowerment area to effectively utilize the moneys, with the grant moneys being adjusted for other federal and state grant moneys to be received by the area for services to children from birth through five years of age.

c. A community board's degree of readiness shall be ascertained by evidence of successful collaboration among public or private education, human services, or health interests or a documented program design evincing a strong likelihood of leading to a successful collaboration between these interests. Other criteria which may be used by the Iowa board to ascertain degree of readiness and to determine funding amounts include one or more of the following:

- (1) Experience or other evidence of capacity to successfully implement the services in the plan.
- (2) Local funding and other resources committed to implementation of the plan.
- (3) Adequacy of plans for commitment of local funding and other resources for implementation of the plan.

d. The Iowa board's provisions for distribution of school ready grant moneys shall take into account contingencies for possible increases and decreases in the provision of state and local funding in future fiscal years which may be used for purposes of school ready children grants and for early childhood programs grants and for differences in local capacity for program implementation and provision of local funding. In developing these provisions, the Iowa board shall

consider equity concerns; options for making capacity adjustments by restricting grant amounts based on service population size groupings to accommodate small, medium, and large population groupings; and options for making adjustments to accommodate varying amounts of time and assistance needed for implementation, such as extending the grant period to more than one year.

6. The priorities for school ready children grant funds shall include providing preschool services on a voluntary basis to children deemed at risk of not succeeding in elementary school, training child day care providers and others to encourage early intellectual stimulation of very young children, and offering parent support and education programs on a voluntary basis to parents of children from birth through five years of age. The grant funds also may be used to provide other services to children from birth through five years of age as specified in the comprehensive school ready children grant plan.

Sec. 9. NEW SECTION. 7I.8 IOWA EMPOWERMENT FUND.

1. An Iowa empowerment fund is created in the state treasury. The moneys in the Iowa empowerment fund are not subject to section 8.33 and shall not be transferred, used, obligated, appropriated, or otherwise encumbered except as provided by law. Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest or earnings on moneys deposited in the Iowa empowerment fund shall be credited to the fund.

2. A school ready children grants account is created in the Iowa empowerment fund under the authority of the director of the department of education. Moneys credited to the account shall be distributed by the department of education in the form of grants to community empowerment areas pursuant to criteria established by the Iowa board in accordance with law.

3. An early childhood programs grant account is created in the Iowa empowerment fund under the authority of the director of human services. Moneys credited to the account shall be distributed by the department of human services in the form of

grants to community empowerment areas pursuant to criteria established by the Iowa board in accordance with law. The criteria shall include but are not limited to a requirement that a community empowerment area must be eligible to receive a school ready children grant in order to receive an early childhood programs grant.

Sec. 10. Section 135.106, subsection 3, Code Supplement 1997, is amended to read as follows:

3. It is the intent of the general assembly to provide communities with the discretion and authority to redesign existing local programs and services targeted at and assisting families expecting babies and families with children who are newborn through five years of age. The Iowa department of public health, department of human services, department of education, and other state agencies and programs, as appropriate, shall provide technical assistance and support to communities desiring to redesign their local programs and shall facilitate the consolidation of existing state funding appropriated and made available to the community for family support services. Funds which are consolidated in accordance with this subsection shall be used to support the redesigned service delivery system. In redesigning services, communities are encouraged to implement a single uniform family risk assessment mechanism and shall demonstrate the potential for improved outcomes for children and families. Requests by local communities for the redesigning of services shall be submitted to ~~and subject to joint approval of~~ the Iowa department of public health, department of human services, and department of education, and are subject to the approval of the Iowa empowerment board in consultation with the departments, based on the innovation zones zone principles established in section 8A.2, Code 1997.

Sec. 11. Section 232.188, subsection 7, Code 1997, is amended to read as follows:

7. The annual child welfare services plan developed by a decategorization governance board pursuant to subsection 2

shall be submitted to the department and the statewide ~~decategorization-and-family-preservation-committee~~ Iowa empowerment board. In addition, the decategorization governance board shall submit an annual progress report to the department and the ~~committee~~ Iowa empowerment board which summarizes the progress made toward attaining the objectives contained in the plan. The progress report shall serve as an opportunity for information sharing and feedback.

Sec. 12. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.

1. The general assembly recognizes the significant findings of brain research indicating that early intellectual stimulation at a very young age increases the learning ability of a child. In order for children to be ready for school by age five, it is the intent of the general assembly that implementation of the provisions of this Act will accomplish the following:

a. Foster collaboration among state agencies which shall initially include the departments of human services, education, and public health, and allow the blending of these agencies' funding and other resources.

b. Establish community empowerment areas with broad community representation with the goal of providing services collaboratively to children from birth through five years of age for the purpose of improving the quality of these children's lives.

2. It is the intent of the general assembly that over time community empowerment areas will be developed in every part of the state. It is anticipated that as local empowerment areas evolve and most effectively implement the provisions of this Act in their areas, the initial structure for community empowerment areas provided in this Act will be revised by the Iowa empowerment board and by the general assembly in order to best promote collaboration among state and local education, health, and human services programs.

3. It is the intent of the general assembly that the duties of child welfare and juvenile justice decategorization

projects and innovation zones will eventually be assumed by community empowerment areas.

Sec. 13. IOWA EMPOWERMENT BOARD. The Iowa empowerment board shall adopt rules, arrange for technical assistance, provide guidance, and take other actions needed to assist the designation of community empowerment areas and creation of community empowerment boards and to enable the community empowerment area boards to submit school ready children grant plans in a timely manner for the initial grants to be awarded and grant moneys to be paid. For the initial grants, plans shall be submitted by September 1, 1998, or by January 1, 1999, in accordance with criteria established by the board. The Iowa board shall submit to the governor and the general assembly a proposed funding formula for distribution of school ready children grant moneys as necessary for statewide implementation of the grant program for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1999, and subsequent fiscal years.

Sec. 14. INITIAL COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AREAS AND BOARDS.

1. Notwithstanding section 7I.5, as enacted by this Act, providing for the creation of community empowerment area boards, for an area in which the initial community empowerment area is an innovation zone, one or more school districts, or a decategorization project, the initial community empowerment board shall be the innovation zone board, representatives of the school board or boards, or the decategorization governing board, as determined to be appropriate by the Iowa empowerment board. In addition to any members of the innovation zone board, representatives of the school board or boards, or decategorization governance board, the initial community empowerment board shall include at a minimum, representatives of school districts, county boards of supervisors, cities, juvenile court services, public health and human services administrators in the community empowerment area, and parents of children living in the area. For an area which does not encompass an innovation zone or decategorization project, the chairperson of the county board of supervisors may work with

the local school district or districts in initiating a process to designate an initial community empowerment area and board. If the composition of the initial board does not comply with the composition requirements of section 7I.5, the board shall comply with the composition requirements on or before June 30, 1999.

2. For an area which is not included in an innovation zone or a decategorization project or for an area desiring to be included in a different zone or project, the area may by mutual agreement be included in a community empowerment area created from an innovation zone or a decategorization project. Otherwise, the area shall comply with requirements for designation of a community empowerment area adopted for this purpose by the Iowa empowerment board.

3. An area designated as an innovation zone in accordance with section 8A.2, Code 1997, as of June 30, 1998, may continue to develop the area's plans to achieve the results identified in the area's innovation zone application. An innovation zone transitioning to become a designated community empowerment area shall continue to receive technical assistance and guidance from the appropriate state agencies. A transitioning innovation zone may continue to pursue waivers and the reallocation of funds to achieve the identified results. A transitioning innovation zone may amend the zone's previously approved plan to include the provisions identified in section 7I.7, as enacted by this Act, as necessary to be eligible for receipt of a school ready children grant.

Sec. 15. TRANSITION BOARD. For the period beginning on the effective date of this Act and ending December 1, 1998, when the governor shall have completed the appointments to the Iowa empowerment board, the duties of the Iowa empowerment board under section 7I.3, as enacted by this Act, shall be performed by a transition board consisting of the directors of the departments of human services, education, and public health, citizen members of the innovation zone board created in section 8A.2, Code 1997, and the six ex officio, nonvoting legislative members of the board.

Sec. 16. EMERGENCY RULES. The transition Iowa empowerment board, as established by this Act, may adopt emergency rules under section 17A.4, subsection 2, and section 17A.5, subsection 2, paragraph "b", to implement the provisions of this Act and the rules shall be effective immediately upon filing unless a later date is specified in the rules. Any rules adopted in accordance with this section shall also be published as a notice of intended action as provided in section 17A.4.

Sec. 17. FUNDING AUTHORIZATION. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1998, and ending June 30, 1999, the Iowa empowerment board may determine amounts of appropriations and categorical program funding for the programs listed in this section which can be attributed to community empowerment areas and may recommend that the appropriate department reallocate the attributable portions to the community empowerment areas which have applied for and are determined to be eligible to receive the funding in the form of a community empowerment grant. Eligibility shall be limited to those community empowerment areas determined by the Iowa empowerment board under section 71.3, as enacted by this Act, to be eligible for an advanced community empowerment area arrangement. Subject to any federal limitations, the programs for which funding may be reallocated under this section are as follows:

1. Child day care.
2. At-risk programs for preschool children.
3. Head start programs.
4. Parent education programs.
5. Children's health programs.
6. Substance abuse assessment and referral.

Sec. 18. INITIAL APPOINTMENTS. The governor shall make the initial citizen appointments to the Iowa empowerment board created in section 71.2, as enacted in this Act, as follows:

1. Two members to a one-year term.
2. Three members to a two-year term.
3. Three members to a three-year term.

Sec. 19. Sections 8A.2 and 217.9A, Code 1997, are repealed effective June 30, 1998.

Sec. 20. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate importance, takes effect upon enactment.

MARY E. KRAMER
President of the Senate

RON J. CORBETT
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that this bill originated in the Senate and is known as Senate File 2406, Seventy-seventh General Assembly.

MARY PAT GUNDERSON
Secretary of the Senate

Approved May 20, 1998

TERRY E. BRANSTAD
Governor